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Shirley Williams: The hunger for a new beginning, page 14

Russia attacks American race for arms superiority

The Soviet Union has delivered a stinging attack on the Reagan Administration, accusing it of encouraging the growth of international tension. An article in "Pravda" gave a warning that the "unprecedented super-arming" of the United States posed a danger not only to communist countries but also to West Europe.

'Danger of increase in world tension'

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, March 25

The Russians today accused the Reagan Administration of indulging in an orgy of military spending, but gave a warning that the Soviet Union would not allow the Americans to achieve military superiority.

In the most comprehensive attack on American policy since President Reagan took office, the Soviet leaders accused the administration of deliberately multiplying the errors of its predecessors. They said that President Carter's Government had done "pernicious things" to poison the international atmosphere, but the Reagan Administration was bent not on lessening but on increasing the growth of international tension.

A long and sharply worded article in "Pravda", signed with a pseudonym reserved for authoritative statements of Soviet policy, said that Washington had plunged the United States into an "unprecedented" arms race, which could be explained only by a striving for military superiority.

But it added that the American leaders themselves, including Mr Alexander Haig, the secretary of State, admitted that there was no threat to American security. Both they and the specialists from the Soviet Ministry of Defence had concluded that there was still a rough balance between the NATO forces and those of the Warsaw Pact. There was no evidence, "Pravda" went on, that this would change into Russian superiority.

"As it has already been unambiguously stated, Moscow has once by the leaders of the Soviet Union, our country does it strive for the attainment of military superiority. The military potential of the Soviet Union does not exceed the requirements of our defence, this being in full accord with the defensive nature of the Soviet military doctrine."

The real military threat hangs over America came not from the Soviet Union, but from the arms race itself. And "Pravda" cited stern reports of American armament plans which, it said, were creating the preconditions for the Pentagon's military strategy.

tary strategy. This "unprecedented super-arming" of the United States was an attempt to create superiority in all categories of weapons.

"Pravda" gave a warning that fulfilment of these plans posed a danger not only to the communist countries, but also to western Europe. "When an attempt is made in the biggest capitalist country to remove the brakes that prevented an unbridled arms race, then danger hangs over the whole of mankind."

But military superiority nowadays was unobtainable. "The Soviet Union will not allow the creation of such a superiority over it."

The long article, written as Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador in Washington, had a lengthy talk with Mr Haig, asserted that the Russians did genuinely want normal relations with America. "There is simply no other sensible way" for the good of their two countries. The paper repeated President Brezhnev's remark at the recent party congress that these relations also had an important effect on the whole world situation.

For their part the Russians were pursuing a principled and constructive line "in relations with America." They would like to hope that those who today shape America's policy will be able in the long run to look at matters more realistically.

Citing American declarations of support for the Afghan insurgents, the journal in El Salvador and the United guerrillas in Angola, it said that as a result of Washington's "provocative" actions new flashpoints were appearing in various continents.

Returning to the accusations made against President Carter, the article said it had become fashionable in America to show a slighting attitude to generally accepted rules of inter-state relations. And just as the former President had frozen bilateral talks and ratification of the SALT treaty limiting strategic arms, the White House was now doing the same. "Statements about intention to link this burning issue of our time with other debatable problems have nothing good in store."

A judges refuse oyalty oath

Islamabad, March 25.—At an eight-judge bench today refused to take a new oath of office giving President a full-fledged freedom to change the country's constitution, court officials said.

They included Mr Justice Wajid Ali, the Chief Justice, and two other Supreme Court judges, they said. At six provincial high court judges were also absent from the oath-taking ceremonies.

The judges were required to swear a new oath under a government decree which in effect revoked Pakistan's 1973 constitution and replaced it with a rigid code restricting the power of the civil courts and imposing strict limits on political activity.

The order proscribed all but "few right-wing religious parties," declared void all court judgments dealing with the constitution and provided for the removal of the Chief Justice and Mr Justice Jagan Nath. Mr Justice Jagan Nath said they were bound by their conscience. Mr Justice Anwar presided at the appeals by Mr Bhutto, executed former Prime Minister. Mr Justice Gulam Sarwar fled to Britain last night claiming police harassment.—Reuters.

Footballer freed

Jadrid, March 25.—The Spanish football star Joaquin "El Chino" Castro, centre-forward of Barcelona, was freed today after being held for three days by a ransom of \$35,000. "Police arrested three kidnappers. 'Quini' is in good health."

Labour counter-attack on 'dishonest' rebels

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Labour leaders last night challenged the personal and political integrity of the Social Democrat MPs who today launched their new party.

The counter-attack, aimed at dimming the spotlight of publicity which will shine on Mr Roy Jenkins, Mr Shirley Williams, and their colleagues, was based on the leak of a Social Democrat document prepared by Dr David Owen, another member of the Gang of Four, in late November.

Although the document shows that the Social Democrat MPs were then still hovering on the brink of whether to form a new party instead of remaining and fighting within the Labour Party, Labour leaders chose to read it as a final commitment to Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the Labour Party, said after a meeting of the national executive committee yesterday that Mrs Shirley Williams, a former committee member, had been planning behind their backs "and pretended to be as pure as driven snow."

With the Social Democrat document in front of him Mr Hayward extracted from his papers the text of an interview Mrs Williams had given on Independent Television News in February. She had said: "I have not been planning a new party and up until Wembley (the special party) question of there was it would be quite improper to start a new party while one was still in the old party."

Dr Owen, who would not admit to the authorship of the document, said it was private and had been written in early November.

It was stolen from one of our offices. But it is quite clear in the text that we had made up our minds and that we were still considering working as an organization in the party to counter the militant tendency. It was written long before the formation of the Council for Labour Democracy. The Labour national executive made considerable play of the document yesterday in unanimously approving a resolution deploring the action "of those MPs who were elected as Labour members, who have now defected from the Labour Party, and who now refuse to resign their seats."

Minimum 'core' of six secondary school subjects

The Government published guidance on what ought to be taught in schools, the first since the passing of the Education Act of 1944. The paper says all secondary school pupils should study a minimum "core" of six subjects up to the age of 16. They are mathematics, science, English, religious education, a humanities subject, and physical education.

Low pay deals plea

A new Government drive to keep down pay settlements was launched by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer. He said pay awards should be in the middle of a single-figure range next year. The call for lower pay settlements came with a hint on the interest rates cut later this year.

Boy tells of kidnap

Mark Thody, aged 16, of Gravelly, near Huntingdon, told of being kidnapped at knifepoint on Monday. He was found unharmed 35 hours later in West Yorkshire, the police said. A watch was kept on a £100,000 ransom left at Peterborough railway station but it was not collected. The police had asked for a news blackout on the incident.

Attackers black out Kampala

Kampala and all of western Uganda were plunged into darkness when anti-government groups damaged the main power line from the Owen Falls hydro-electric station. In other attacks, a broadcasting station was damaged and the headquarters of the ruling Uganda People's Congress came under machine-gun fire.

£920m tax 'shortfall'

Civil servants' union leaders said their strikes were cutting off about two-fifths of government revenue and had trebled state borrowing. The tax income shortfall was estimated at £920m in the first two weeks of selective stoppages. Action by customs staff is holding up cargoes at ports.

Rebuke for Mr Haig

President Reagan has delivered what amounts to a public rebuke to Mr Alexander Haig, his Secretary of State, by announcing that Vice-President Bush would chair a crisis management committee after Mr Haig had made known his disapproval of the proposal.

£5,700m rail project

Investment totalling £5,700m over the next 20 years is called for in British Rail's modernization plan, unveiled by Sir Peter Parker, the chairman. It includes main line electrification and subsidies for rural lines.



Mr John Willis (second from right) directing the bidding at a nearby Chichester Market yesterday. Many farmers stayed away for fear of foot-and-mouth disease. (Report, page 3).

Two medical schools to be merged

By Nicholas Timmins

Westminster Hospital medical school is to be merged with the Charing Cross, and about 180 medical teaching jobs are to be cut from London's medical schools as a result of a far-reaching reorganization of medical education approved yesterday by the senate of London University.

The Westminster which last year staged off proposals to close it, is to merge with the Charing Cross, the joint school to be based at the Charing Cross site in Fulham. The decision appears to mean that the Westminster has lost its fight for independence.

In addition, the senate approved decisions that will mean the equivalent of two pre-clinical schools and one clinical school will also close. But the decision on which parts of St Mary's and the Middlesex will close, and whether the London Hospital pre-clinical will close or be merged in a new development with St Bartholomew's Hospital and Queen Mary College, London, has been postponed, pending further discussions.

Unknown group claims it sent bomb to MP

By John Groser

A letter claiming responsibility for a letter bomb delivered to an MP was received yesterday afternoon at the London office of "The Sun" newspaper. It was signed with the initials "ERA", a code unknown to Scotland Yard.

The bomb, addressed to Mrs Jill Knight, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Edgbaston, was intercepted in the Palace of Westminster sorting office and rendered harmless early yesterday.

Explosives experts who were called in to deal with the device said the package, which measured 19 inches by 12 inches, resembled the one addressed to the Prime Minister and which was opened in the Victoria sorting office last January.

The bomb, which was concealed in a padded bag, was examined by the Scotland Yard bomb disposal unit.

The initial reaction of officers was that it was probably meant to harm rather than kill. Mrs Knight said it was "a very nasty bomb" that had been designed to blow up her face. She added that it was made of glass and "was made to disfigure me, but could easily have killed me". She had not seen the bomb but was "terribly indebted to whoever found it".

The MP added that the letter must have been very sharp and she was concerned that he had risked injury.

Last year a letter bomb addressed to Mr Frank Allaun, the Labour MP for Stockport, East, slipped through the Commons sorting office net and found its way to the MP's home, where his wife became suspicious and called police bomb experts to deal with it.

The House of Commons postmaster explained that Mr Harry Hiron's duty sorter, who was working alone early yesterday morning, became suspicious of the package addressed to Mrs Knight. Mr Hiron immediately telephoned the police and the bomb disposal officers arrived.

about 20 minutes later to remove it.

He said: "We are always on the lookout for this sort of thing. Most parcels we receive of this sort are properly typed with the name of the firm on the back, but this had none of that. Then I noticed a copper wire sticking through one of the perforated holes in the package. I could feel that the wire went right along the parcel."

The police told Mr Hiron to remain calm and he put the package at one end of the sorting office and continued with his work at the other.

"I am used to this sort of thing. This is the seventh letter bomb I have reported though all the others were hoaxes. This one was posted in west central London and was addressed in neat, printed handwriting."

Mrs Knight has been an MP since 1966. Her immediate reaction when told of the letter bomb was that it must have been the work of the IRA. (She recently complained in the Commons of the use of taxpayers' money to fund visits to IRA prisoners by their families.)

The director's office said it had checked for all relevant statements and exhibits on Mr Biggs's conviction from Scotland Yard files. The extradition will take several weeks if uncontested, but could take several months if contested. (Lawyers representing Mr Biggs have filed a writ of habeas corpus seeking his release. Reuter reports from Barbados.)

When signed by a magistrate, the papers will be passed to Barbados through diplomatic channels.

As Mr Biggs was being questioned by immigration officers in Barbados yesterday, a warrant for the arrest of Mr John Miller, who is said to have organized his removal from Brazil, was issued in London.

Sir Roger Hollis was cleared of spying, Mrs Thatcher told

By Peter Hennessy,
Craig Seton
and Stewart Tendler

The Prime Minister has been told that the late Sir Roger Hollis, a former head of MI5, was investigated as a possible Soviet spy but cleared, according to highly placed intelligence and political sources yesterday.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is to make a statement in the Commons today on the case after allegations by Mr Chapman Pincher earlier this week that Sir Roger, Director-General of the counter-espionage service from 1956 to 1963 was interrogated about suspicions that he spied for the Soviet Union.

Sir Roger, according to the sources, came under suspicion because of the circumstances surrounding his mission to Ottawa to interview Mr Leon Couzenko, a Soviet cypher expert who defected (details, page 6). One well-placed member of the intelligence community said those circumstances were the only cause for suspicion about him.

It was learnt yesterday by The Times that the investigation in the late 1960s and early 1970s, after Sir Roger had retired, into Soviet penetration of the British security and intelligence services produced three names. They were Mr Kim Philby, who defected in 1963; Professor Anthony Blunt, who confessed in 1964, and Sir Roger.

In the Couzenko case, Sir Roger was thought to have failed to have made maximum use of the information offered. But Mr Couzenko's evidence led in fact to the discovery of the period between 1940 and 1963, and the United States, Canada, and Britain.

The evidence against Sir Roger is reported to have been circumstantial. The assumption that his habit of working late at night, long after the departure of other staff, had a sinister motive was denied. He was said to have been totally dedicated to the service and to have been always determined to complete the day's work before going home.

It was also assumed that his unhappy first marriage and his relationship with his secretary, whom he later married, were further reasons for his apparent zeal.

Support for Sir Roger's innocence also came yesterday from Mr Nigel West, author of a forthcoming book on the history of MI5.

He told The Times there was a Soviet agent inside MI5 during the period between 1940 and 1963. "He was not Roger Hollis, although Sir Roger went through a very thorough check along with all the rest of the senior MI5 management," Mr West said. "The 'mole' in fact

died in 1963 and his death removed the last remaining obstacles to Blunt's confessions."

He would not be drawn on the name, although he claimed to know it, but he indicated the man had reached a very high level in the Security Service.

Mr West said: "Pincher was right in saying there was a senior Soviet agent operating throughout the 1940s and 1950s. He named the wrong man."

Mr West added that the agent named Professor Blunt that Mr Maclean was to be interviewed in 1951 and that that led to Mr Maclean's and Mr Guy Burgess's defections. The man's death in 1963 freed Professor Blunt to make his confession to MI5 in 1964.

"Hollis went to considerable lengths to establish the truth of the 1951 defections," Mr West said. "Furthermore, the Security Service went to the unprecedented point of opening their files to an outsider (Lord Trend, former Secretary of the Cabinet) on the details of the investigation could be checked."

"The report that followed was shown to the Prime Minister of the day (Sir Harold Wilson) for his approval. This arrangement was designed to protect the Security Service from any misinformed accusations of a 'cover-up'."

Some of Mr West's details of Sir Roger's early career were checked yesterday and confirmed from independent sources, but it was not possible to establish the truth of his claim about the senior MI5 man who spied for the Soviet Union until his death in 1963.

Mr West said the credibility of his arguments rested on more than three years' research into MI5 and consultations with more than a hundred serving or retired counter-intelligence officers and agents.

Thatcher bid to reassure and Peer 'double agent', page 6
Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15

I think there's enough K.G.B. agents in England to form a new Political Party.

Proceedings start for extradition of Ronald Biggs from Barbados

By Frances Gibb

The Director of Public Prosecutions started proceedings yesterday for the extradition from Barbados of Ronald Biggs, after Scotland Yard had confirmed that fingerprints sent to them by the Barbados police were his.

The director's office said it had checked for all relevant statements and exhibits on Mr Biggs's conviction from Scotland Yard files. The extradition will take several weeks if uncontested, but could take several months if contested. (Lawyers representing Mr Biggs have filed a writ of habeas corpus seeking his release. Reuter reports from Barbados.)

When signed by a magistrate, the papers will be passed to Barbados through diplomatic channels.

As Mr Biggs was being questioned by immigration officers in Barbados yesterday, a warrant for the arrest of Mr John Miller, who is said to have organized his removal from Brazil, was issued in London.

Mr Miller, also known as Mr John McKillop, a former Scots Guards sergeant, failed to appear before Marlborough Street magistrates on a charge of actual bodily harm during a fight at Morton's Club, Berkeley Square, London, on December 3.

The court heard that Mr Miller, of Creswell Place, West Bromwich, was in Barbados on business, Mr Leon Kaye, his solicitor, said. "Mr Miller has been involved in the recovery of Ronald Biggs from Brazil and the subsequent handing over of Mr Biggs in Barbados."

Mr Miller, a director of Single Point Limited, a security firm, and four others with the backing of £56,000 undertook the apparent abduction of Mr Biggs, which ended late on Monday night after seven days at sea.

Yesterday the bizarre facts behind the operation began to emerge, involved the making of a film and the planned sale of the story to newspapers for up to £250,000. Mr Biggs himself, it is thought, went along with the plan, but did not know of the final episode, to land him on a crown territory.

The operation was funded, according to Mr Sebastian Fraser, a partner with a publishing firm in London, by the owner of a magazine company.

Mr Frederick Prime, a British ex-serviceman, and one of the five men who arrived in Barbados with Mr Biggs on the yacht, told a local newspaper yesterday that the operation "was just a publicity thing" to promote their security company.

Son to be moved: Mr Biggs's Brazilian ex-mistress is planning to fly their young son from Brazil to a local newspaper yesterday that the operation "was just a publicity thing" to promote their security company.

Film removed: Photographic equipment and film has been removed from the schooner used to take Mr Biggs from Brazil (Reuter reports).

Why the British are a nation of fiddlers

By Frances Williams

Britain is a nation of cheats, fiddlers and petty pilferers, out to do down employers, customers and the taxman alike, if a new book out today is to be believed. At the same time, we are caring, altruistic and self-reliant, always ready to give a neighbour a helping hand or to devote our energies to serving the community.

What all these activities have in common is that they are part of what is variously called the black, hidden or informal economy. An economy in which almost all of us participate to a greater or lesser extent.

Hands up all those who can solemnly swear that they have never used the office telephone for a personal call or pocketed the odd halfpenny pen or paper-clip.

Trivial though this may seem, some estimates put the total cost of pilfering and fiddling at around 1.8 per cent of national output. Studies suggest that between 15 and 92 per cent of employees admit "stealing" from their employers.

Why do we do it? One explanation is that workers are "assuaging grievances" by seizing benefits that the formal economy denies them—for example, blue-collar workers fiddle while white-collar workers get legitimate perks. Another is that fiddling provides a creative outlet and a way in which people cannot find elsewhere.

The book's editor, Dr Stuart Henry, claims that up to a fifth of the workforce may have unregistered second jobs or be involved in what he calls informal trading networks, working on the side for undeclared cash.

But the desire to boost income is not the only reason for moonlighting. Many people do it primarily because they enjoy the work or to help somebody out.

Estimates of the size of the black economy range from 2 to 3 per cent of national output to as much as 7.5 per cent, with unreported earnings costing the Exchequer £1,000m to £4,000m a year in lost tax revenue.

But the thrust of Dr Henry's book is that concern over lost tax revenues and the like may be misplaced. Far from imposing real costs on society, the black economy props it up, both by generating additional income and spending (of which the taxman gets his share) and by diverting rebellious spirits into relatively harmless pastimes.

Can I have it in cash? edited by Stuart Henry, published by Astral Books, 9 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1. Price £12.55.

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Strike cutting off 40% of revenue, civil servants say

Overseas selling prices
 Australia \$1.29, Asia \$1.30; Canada
 \$1.40; Hong Kong \$1.30; India \$1.30;
 Japan \$1.30; Korea \$1.30; Mexico \$1.30;
 New Zealand \$1.30; Philippines \$1.30;
 Singapore \$1.30; South Africa \$1.30;
 Taiwan \$1.30; Thailand \$1.30; U.K. \$1.30;
 U.S. \$1.30; West Germany \$1.30; Yugoslavia
 \$1.30; Italy L. 1100; Lebanon L.D. 1.25;
 Kuwait K.R. 0.50; Lebanon L.D. 1.25;
 Saudi Arabia S.A. 0.50; Singapore S.S. 0.50;
 U.A.E. 0.50; Morocco D.R. 0.50; Pakistan
 P.R. 0.50; Portugal Esc. 200; Spain
 Ptas. 200; Switzerland S.F. 2.00; Taiwan
 \$1.30; U.K. \$1.30; U.S. \$1.30; West Germany
 \$1.30; Yugoslavia Din. 400; U.S. \$1.30;
 U.S. \$1.30; U.S. \$1.30; U.S. \$1.30;
 Yugoslavia Din. 400.

Shipping daily express Sunday, January 1, 1978
 2nd and 3rd and Good Friday by 10:00 AM
 4th and 5th and Good Friday by 10:00 AM
 6th and 7th and Good Friday by 10:00 AM
 8th and 9th and Good Friday by 10:00 AM
 10th and 11th and Good Friday by 10:00 AM
 12th and 13th and Good Friday by 10:00 AM
 14th and 15th and Good Friday by 10:00 AM
 16th and 17th and Good Friday by 10:00 AM
 18th and 19th and Good Friday by 10:00 AM
 20th and 21st and Good Friday by 10:00 AM
 22nd and 23rd and Good Friday by 10:00 AM
 24th and 25th and Good Friday by 10:00 AM
 26th and 27th and Good Friday by 10:00 AM
 28th and 29th and Good Friday by 10:00 AM
 30th and 31st and Good Friday by 10:00 AM

200 pigs are slaughtered because of disease

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

More than 200 pigs were destroyed on a farm at Westbury, Wiltshire, yesterday because they were found to have swine vesicular disease. There were no outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease.

The two diseases are caused by viruses which produce similar effects in animals. But foot-and-mouth spreads much faster, affects many types of animal and is much less frequent in Britain.

Almost 2,000 animals have been slaughtered and buried this year because of both diseases at a cost of compensation to farmers of more than £100,000. Last year nearly 3,000 pigs were slaughtered because of swine vesicular disease.

An attempt to avoid spreading foot-and-mouth disease, the Ramblers' Association has appealed to walkers to avoid the restricted areas of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Is closed: The Deer Park at Andover was closed to the public yesterday, and barriers and warning signs were placed across all entrances, as a precaution against foot-and-mouth disease. The deer section is part of the 4,000-acre Great Park Estate in Berkshire.

Foot-and-mouth fear at auction

Cattle sale goes ahead despite NFU warning

From John Withersow
Chichester

A cattle auction went ahead at Chichester market, West Sussex, yesterday despite warnings by the National Farmers' Union that it was irresponsible to hold one so close to the area restricted because of foot-and-mouth disease.

Many farmers, however, stayed away because of the outbreak in the Isle of Wight, and most pens remained empty. Only about a third of the cattle expected at a normal spring sale were put up for auction.

The NFU believe all movements of people and animals that could spread the disease should be discouraged, but the Ministry of Agriculture said the Ministry of Agriculture said the Wight and around the Solent is adequate at present to control the outbreak.

All visitors to the market at Chichester, which is about 20 miles east of the restricted zone, were made to drive and walk over disinfectant straw at the entrance and exit.

Mr John Willis, the Chichester auctioneer, defended the sale and said he had not been put under any pressure from the Ministry. "We have taken advice from the Ministry of Agriculture vets, and they said we can open," he said. "We have a duty to the public to provide a service."

He said all necessary precautions, including banning any cattle from the restricted area, had been observed, and added: "If I thought there was one shadow of risk in having the market, I would not hold it."

Farmers tend to buy stock in a spring sale; unusually, most of the cattle sold yesterday were for slaughter. Farmers from Hampshire were discouraged from buying because of the risk of taking animals into a restricted area.

One farmer, Mr Jack Brazier, of Arundel, said the market was "ridiculous" because so few cattle were for sale because of the danger of the outbreak spreading.

Mr Roderick Kynoch, a Ministry of Agriculture veterinary surgeon, who was checking the animals, said the sale could proceed because it was outside the restricted area.

An official of the south-east region of the NFU said, however, that because of strong winds and the possibility of birds carrying the disease, holding auctions so close to the restricted zone was an additional risk. The union wants all markets near the area, especially at Chichester, Haywards Heath and Guildford, to be cancelled for two weeks.

Woman wins Peace tax fight

From Our Correspondent
York

Miss Jennie Aste, a peace campaigner, of York, has won the right to pay 40 per cent of her income tax by separate cheque because she wants it diverted directly to the Ministry of Overseas Development to help the needy.

Miss Aste, aged 28, a self-employed bookbinder, took her case to the Inland Revenue through Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York. She plans to help others to get the same concession through the Peace Tax Campaign.

Our Business News Staff writes: An Inland Revenue official said yesterday that they were still making inquiries about the case.

It seems unclear what practical consequence, if any, the ruling will have. An individual's income tax bill is not allocated in whole or in part to any Government department.

Equally, authority to spend money as far as the Ministry of Defence or the Ministry of Overseas Development is concerned is in no way connected to individual income tax payments.

Miss Aste may get moral satisfaction from the concession, but it is not clear how much money will follow her victory. In practice, however, all money collected by the Government in whatever form ends up in the Treasury.

BR plea for £5,700m modernization

By Michael Raily
Transport Correspondent

A modernization plan for Britain's railways that would require overall investment of £5,700m in electrified main lines, improved commuter services, low-cost rural railways and a Channel tunnel was announced by British Rail yesterday.

Investment should be raised from £306m to £567m a year until 1990, British Rail states; without it, the railways will continue to decline and 3,000 miles of track will have to close.

Introducing the proposals at a press conference in London, Sir Peter Parker, the chairman, said: "We are not trying to terrorize the taxpayer but to keep the picture steadily in view. There are certain things in this package we must do, and others we could do to point the railways in the right direction."

"We are entirely realistic about the state of the economy, and we are asking for a commitment first and cash later."

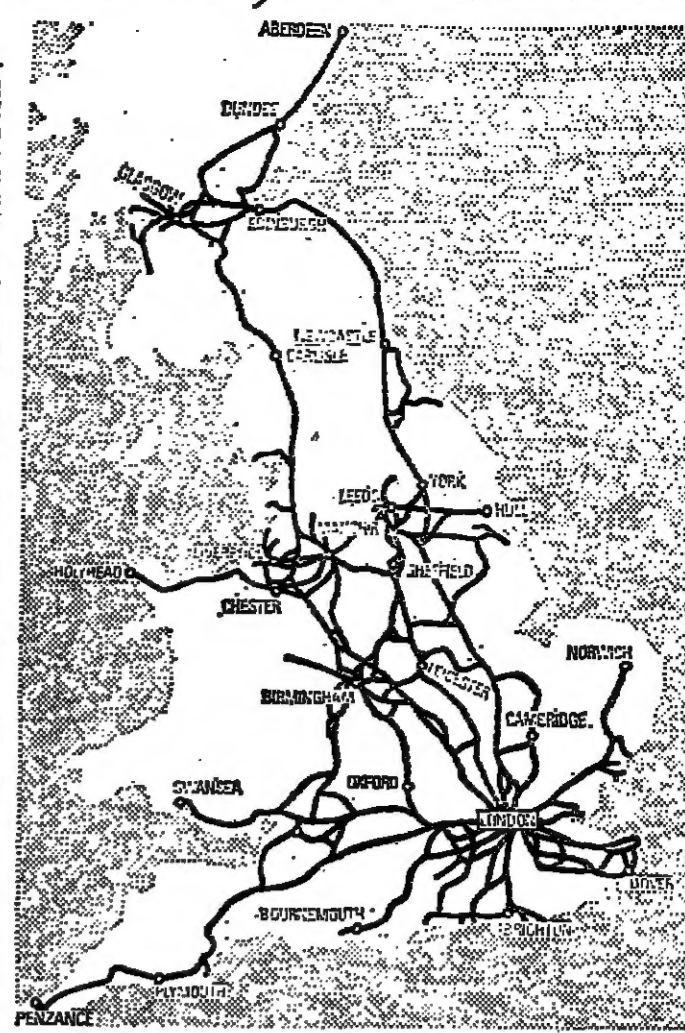
British Rail proposes a new contract with the Government to pay for the "social railway", those parts that are uneconomic but socially valuable, and greater private sector involvement for freight, parcels, and inter-city passenger transport.

After years of under-investment the railways were reaching a "dividing of the ways" between an improved railway and a run-down of the system. British Rail could not continue the present investment policy beyond 1983; decisions needed to be taken this year about the direction thereafter.

The main decision, to be taken in "weeks rather than months, and days rather than weeks", Sir Peter said, was approval for main-line electrification costing about £1,000m over 20 years. A joint British Rail and Department of Transport study reported recently that the scheme would yield an 11 per cent real return, and Sir Peter described it as the backbone.

A reduction of 38,000 in staff over the next five years is envisaged, with the reduced workforce earning higher real wages. Whatever productivity gains were made, extra investment funds would still be needed, Sir Peter said.

The proposed increase in annual investment would cover:



The routes BR wants to electrify over 20 years.

COMPARATIVE INVESTMENT IN EUROPEAN RAILWAYS IN 1980

	£100m
West Germany	£918m
France	£827m
Italy	£714m
Britain	£411m
Belgium	£348m
Netherlands	£191m
Denmark	£67m
Irish Republic	£21m
Luxembourg	£15m

Source: International Railway Journal.

renewal of worn-out assets, including catching up on the present backlog of replacement (72m a year up to 1990); improving London and South-east commuter services (97m more a year); main line elec-

trification (£36m a year); improved services to Gatwick airport and possibly Stansted (£10m a year); and BR's share on a Channel tunnel (£51m a year).

Another area for investment would be improving staff working conditions, which have suffered badly in recent years.

The report concludes that "there is no serious doubt in anyone's mind that a railway network of major proportions is necessary to the efficient operation of the country as a whole, and that it is of considerable benefit to millions of people who travel for leisure or holiday purposes."

Letting the system run down would mean:

3,000 miles of track, rising rapidly, withdrawn from traffic for lack of maintenance

800 miles of track carrying speed restrictions withdrawn from traffic for lack of maintenance

Signal failures up from 4 per cent to 10 per cent annually

Train delays up from 5,000 hours now to 8,500 hours, rising

Locomotive availability down from 75 to 50 per cent

Electric multiple unit availability down from 85 to 70 per cent

Diesel multiple units availability down from 80 to 60 per cent

Loco-hauled coach availability down from 85 to 75 per cent

Loading article, page 15

Mr Harold West fights Fermanagh by-election

Mr Christopher Thomas
West

Mr Harold West, landowner, geologist, and veteran of political intrigues in Northern Ireland and former MP, is to meet the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election for the Official Unionists, the party he led.

His selection ended any chance of finding a compromise candidate between the Official Unionists, historically a party of government, and Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party.

The DUP, for once outmanoeuvred by its bitter rivals, was dismayed last night. There is prospect of its offering support to Mr West because of inextricable association with party that Mr Paisley has been deriding, with increasing venom, for a decade.

Mr West's troubles worsened yesterday when Mr Roy Kells, part-time Ulster Defence Regiment lieutenant with no political affiliations, who something of a local celebrity after surviving two IRA attacks and four bombings in a drapery store, fled not to stand.

White-collar pickets slow production of BL cars

From Clifford Webb
Birmingham

White-collar pickets sealed off BL's Longbridge car plant yesterday, preventing deliveries of complete cars and slowing production of the Metro, Mini and Allegro models.

The strike, in protest against 120 compulsory redundancies was supported by all but a handful of the 4,500 staff. The solidarity of the response and the militancy displayed by a normally moderate section of

the workforce took the management by surprise.

Managers and superintendents kept internally stocked components flowing to the assembly lines, operating a computer-controlled components warehouse for the Metro.

But few external supplies got through and there was a shortage of engines normally delivered by lorry.

The two-day strike is due to end tonight, to be followed by as yet undisclosed action by the four unions involved.

Report links illness and bad housing

By John Young
Planning Reporter

High rates of infectious diseases, respiratory ailments and mental illness among tenants on a Liverpool council estate were directly linked to unsatisfactory housing conditions, a government report published yesterday suggests.

Infectious diseases were traced to the unhygienic conditions of mobile food vans which took advantage of the lack of shops on the estate.

Respiratory illnesses were believed by doctors to be connected with defects in the ducted warm air system, dampness from drying clothes in flats because drying rooms had been made unusable by vandals, and lack of fresh air among children whose parents were afraid to let them out.

Depression among isolated housewives was particularly common, the report states. Several serious accidents had included that of a young child falling off a balcony.

The North Lee estate, Liverpool, is one of several examples of unpopular housing examined in the report by the Department of the Environment's housing development directorate. Together they provide a grim picture of lives that have been needlessly worsened by indifferent local authority management and by insensitive architectural design.

The report, *An investigation of difficulties in housing*, is one of several which were published together yesterday, and to which Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction, referred in a speech to a conference in London organized by the Housing Centre Trust.

Mr Stanley reaffirmed his belief that the best way of improving housing conditions was to make home ownership available to as wide a public as possible.

He announced that the grant limits on properties improved by local authorities and housing associations for subsequent sale was to be raised from £5,000 to £10,000 in London, and to £7,500 elsewhere.

SPCA loses a st case on chicken cruelty

A test case brought by the SPCA against a chicken ducer, alleging failure to use painless deaths of fowls human consumption, was dismissed yesterday. The case, which has important implications for Britain's chicken industry, was due to last three hours but was dismissed within an hour.

The RSPCA had brought a total of 18 charges against four men and a chicken company, alleging that an unknown number of birds, estimated at more than 120, had been slaughtered without first being anaesthetized.

Mr Coates was struck on the head by what appeared to be a handgun and threatened.

The man ran off, chased by two members of the public, and discharged the gun. Mr Coates was treated for head injuries and discharged.

Attacker armed with crossbow sought by police

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

West Midlands police were yesterday hunting for the attacker of two men, one of whom was shot in the neck by a bolt fired from a crossbow.

Mr Caramat Hussein was standing in the street near his home in Small Heath, Birmingham, on Tuesday when a green Vauxhall Viva drew up and a man leant out of the window and fired at him.

He was taken to East Birmingham Hospital for an emergency operation to remove the bolt, and yesterday his condition was not serious.

Soon afterwards Mr Richard Coates, aged 30, of Keynham, near Bristol, was returning to his car in a car park at the Tivoli Centre, in Coventry Road, Birmingham, when he disturbed a man apparently trying to break into it.

Charge over demolition

Our Planning Reporter

private prosecution for the allegedly illegal demolition last of a group of listed seventeenth-century almshouses is to be heard by magistrates in Lichfield, Lincolnshire, today.

The defendant is Sir Bruno Welby, owner of the cottages.

The prosecution has been brought by Mr David Pearce, secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. It is believed to be the first private prosecution under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971.

Vitnes tells of policeman's request

Michael Horsnell
diesbrough

former criminal, alleged the Crown to have been in grip of a corrupt London clique, said in Teesside Crown Court yesterday that the defendant demanded £200 in return for helping him over an arrest.

Mr Michael Perry alleged at subsequent meetings that instalments of £50 were to be paid to the policeman, Detective John Symonds, and all payments were made and tape recorded by officers from The Times who were investigating police corruption.

One of the recorded meetings Mr Symonds told him he was giving him a "license" to commit crime because "a man within a firm" - a network of corrupt London police - he said.

The jury were played tapes of conversations said to be between the two men. At one point Mr Symonds joked: "I have not got this bugged anything, have you?" Mr Perry replied: "Put a hankie

over your mouth or something."

Mr Symonds, aged 45, denies three charges of corruptly accepting a total of £150 from Mr Perry during October and November, 1979.

The Crown alleges that the former detective fled the country before his trial at the Central Criminal Court in 1972 and returned only last year, and that he first met Mr Perry on September 24, 1969, at Camberwell police station, in south London, where he was based.

Mr Perry, then aged 22, from Peckham, south London, had been arrested by provincial detectives in connection with the theft of some cigarettes from a Co-operative store in Nuneston.

Mr Perry told the court: "While I was in the cell Mr Symonds poked his head round the door and we had a conversation. He said someone had told him to see me. I had never spoken to him before."

He said if the Coventry police asked what he was doing there, he would tell them he was inquiring about some clothes found at my flat. I took that

just to be an excuse for him to be in the cell."

He said: "I do not think they have got anything on you, but if they have got a finger-print tell them you will plead guilty to Section 1, theft, because that only carries 12 months maximum."

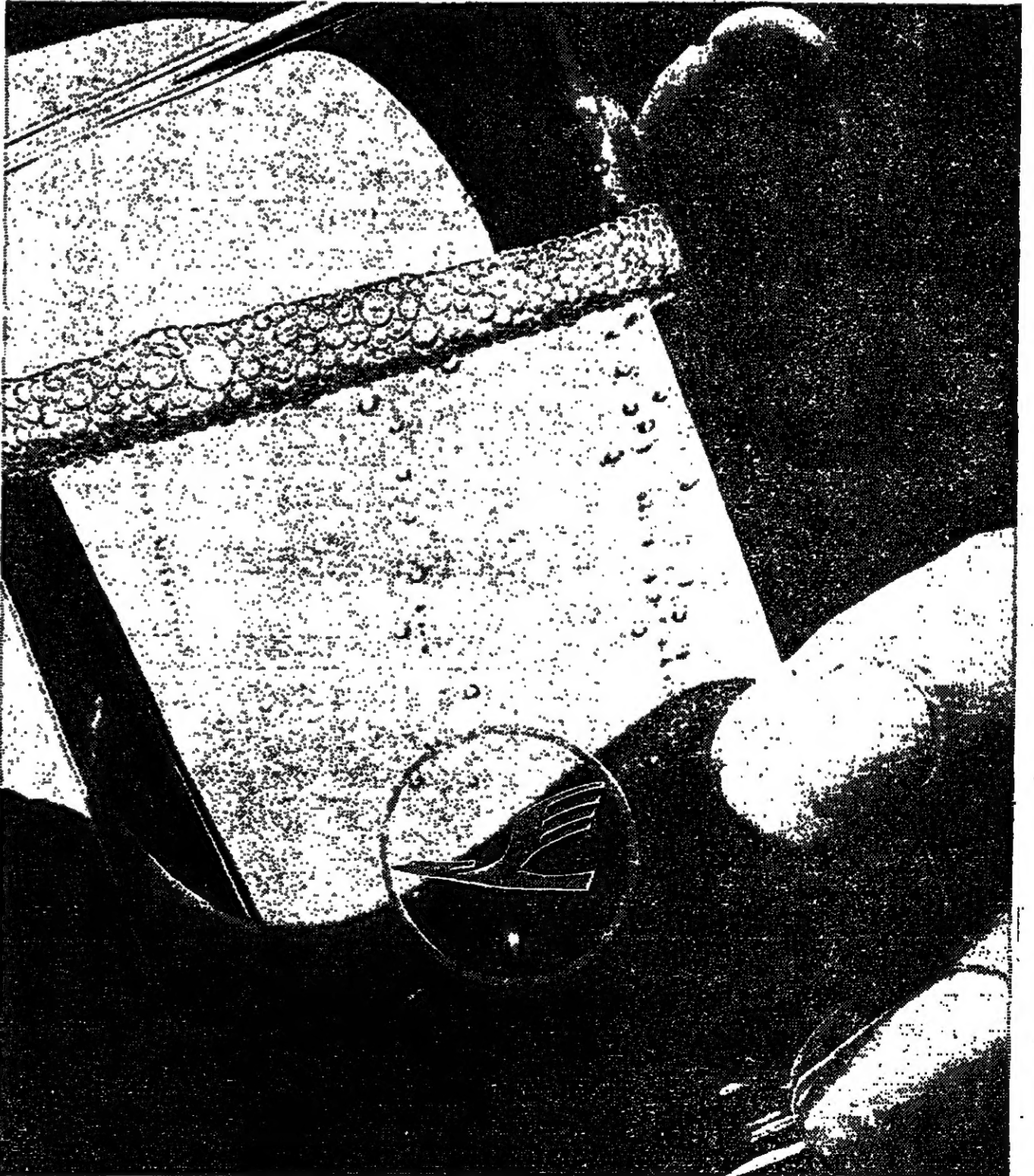
Mr Perry thanked him and said he would see him all right at a later date. In October Mr Perry received a letter from the police at Nuneston telling him that proceedings would not be brought.

Shortly before that he had met Mr Symonds outside the Rose public house, in Camberwell, when Mr Perry said: "He told me that I would get off the Nuneston job and he said it would cost £200. I thought he was being a bit greedy. I had a sum of £25 in mind."

Later that month Mr Perry decided to "say something to somebody" and was introduced to Mr Gareth Lloyd, a reporter from The Times.

The trial continues today.

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Secondary pupils should study curriculum of at least six subjects, go vernment paper says

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

All secondary school pupils should study mathematics, science, English, religious education, a humanities subject and physical education up to the age of 16, the Government says in a paper on the school curriculum, published yesterday.

It is the first time since the passing of the Education Act, 1944, that a government has offered guidance on what ought to be taught in schools. Local authorities will be asked to report back after two years, explaining what progress they have made towards meeting the objectives set out in the paper.

Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, accepted yesterday that he had no power to force local authorities to comply, but he said a circular would be issued shortly and in practice local authorities feel they have a responsibility to act.

The paper points out that while the Government has a duty to promote education, and to that extent is required to take an overall view of the content and quality of education, it was up to local authorities, school governing bodies and teachers to decide on the detailed content of the curriculum.

Throughout the paper the need to achieve a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils is emphasised. Too many pupils were allowed to drop key subjects, particularly from the age of 14.

Excessive emphasis on examinations could also lead to distortions in the programmes of individual pupils. A combination of examination courses did not always provide a balanced curriculum.

In addition to the six-subject "core" curriculum, opportunities should be provided for practical and aesthetic activity, and for experience with com-

puters; and as many pupils as possible should be encouraged to continue to study a foreign language up to the age of 16. At primary level, the curriculum should include mathematics, English, science, history, geography, religious education, physical education and aesthetic and practical studies. French should be introduced only where there was a qualified teacher and assured coordination with secondary schools.

Throughout the paper, it is emphasised that how something is taught is as important as what is taught. Guidance had been issued on subjects, but a subject title did not indicate the content or level of study, or the extent to which it was meeting learning objectives. Some essential educational elements were not found in particular subjects, but should be provided across the curriculum. They included an understanding of the multi-cultural nature of British

society, the effects of technology on employment, and the equality of men and women. Another essential area was personal and social development. Every school should make clear to parents its aims in moral education, and would soon be required under new regulations to publish information on the ways and contexts in which sex education is provided.

The Government's discussion document, *A framework for the curriculum*, published a year ago, contained controversial proposals that minimum periods of time should be allocated to certain key subjects such as mathematics. Those have been dropped from the latest paper because the Government feared that the minima would either be treated as norms or interpreted too rigidly.

The school curriculum (Department of Education and Science and the Welsh Office, Stationery Office; £2).

Films 'could be lost forever'

By Kenneth Gosling

Rare film footage may be lost forever unless the public is given a greater awareness of its value to the heritage, Mr Anthony Smith, director of the British Film Institute, said last night.

Referring to a three-year standstill in the budget for the National Film Archive's 24-year programme for converting dangerous nitrate film to safety stock, Mr Smith called for a switch in the balance of national priorities in preservation.

The entire archive and all its expenses cost annually as much as a single important acquisition for the National Gallery, he said.

All that was now required, he told the Royal Society of Arts in London, was the equivalent of an additional small impressionist painting to restore the momentum of the nitrate programme.

Second Oxford college to waive exam entrance

By Our Education Correspondent

A second Oxford college has decided to offer places to candidates on the basis only of an interview and the minimum university matriculation requirements, two grade Es at A level.

Balliol College announced yesterday that from next year it will be making unconditional offers to about twenty pupils a year from schools unable to provide special tuition for Oxbridge entrance.

Hertford College has operated an unconditional offer scheme open to pupils at any type of school since 1965. It won reluctant agreement from the other colleges earlier this year to expand the scheme to apply to 30 per cent of its intake.

Although Hertford's scheme has proved a resounding success, other colleges have until now refrained from following suit for fear that it would open the flood gates and lead to the demise of the university's entrance examination as the normal route of entry.

Three other colleges, including Oriel, are known to be considering introducing similar schemes.

Mr Colin Lucas, admissions tutor for Balliol, said that the chairman of the university's management committee, which represents the admissions tutors of all the colleges, had cleared Balliol's scheme under the agreement allowing colleges to make conditional offers up to a fifth of their intake without requiring candidates to take the entrance examination.

Proposals supported: The Councils yesterday gave their approval to Local Education Authorities' proposals to set up a national body to finance, plan and rationalize higher education in the maintained sector.

The council decided that the new body should not finance public sector higher education by a direct grant from Government, as the University Grants Committee does, but should levy contributions from local authorities.

Challenge by MPs on sex life snooping

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

The Government is expected to respond today to growing disquiet about social security officials prying into the sex lives of single mothers.

Questions tabled by three Labour MPs ask how often information about sexual relationships is used in proceedings against putative fathers and how much money is recovered as a result.

The questions were tabled after disclosures about secret instructions to officials to ask detailed questions about sex lives where single mothers claiming supplementary benefits have not sought maintenance.

The instructions, which the Department of Health and Social Security have confirmed are current, include asking when and where sexual intercourse first took place, how frequently afterwards and during what period of time.



Bruce Reynolds Roy James Gordon Goody James Hossey Charles Wilson Tommy Wisbey Roger Cordrey James White Robert Welch Ronald Edwards

All except Ronald Biggs have served out sentences

Eleven men who robbed the train and have now been released

By a Staff Reporter

Eleven men were convicted for their part in the Great Train Robbery of August 8, 1963. Apart from Ronald Biggs, who has been at large since escaping from prison in 1965, all have served jail sentences and been released. The 11 are:

Ronald Biggs: Sentenced to 30 years, he escaped from Wandsworth prison in July, 1965, when an armed gang broke in and released him with three other prisoners. He has been living in Brazil, successfully resisting attempts at extradition.

Roger Cordrey: A former florist, he was sentenced to 20 years after admitting the crime and was released after serving seven years.

Ronald "Buster" Edwards: Evaded capture for three years, went to Mexico, but surrendered in September 1966. Sentenced to 15 years, he was released on parole in April, 1975, and went back to prison the same year after being convicted for stealing goods worth £65 from Harrods in London. On

his final release set up a flower stall at Waterloo station, in London.

Gordon Goody: A former hairdresser, sentenced to 30 years and released on parole in 1976. Sold vegetables from a lorry in south London.

James Hossey: Former house painter, sentenced to 30 years and released in December, 1975. Worked on market stalls in London.

Roy James: A talented racing driver and silversmith, he was caught by the Flying Squad four months after the robbery in a rooftop chase in St John's Wood, London. Sentenced to 30 years, he was paroled in August, 1975, and became a builder and decorator.

Bruce Reynolds: A former antique dealer, he evaded capture for five years, living in Mexico and the south of France, and was arrested in a villa in Torquay in November, 1963. He was sentenced to 25 years in January, 1969, and released after serving 10 years.

Robert Welch: A former club proprietor, he was sentenced to 30 years and released on parole in June, 1976. On his release he became a car dealer.

James White: A former paratrooper, he was the quartermaster for the robbery, responsible for stores and vehicles. He evaded capture for three years but was arrested in April, 1966, and sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment. He was released in April, 1975, and became a painter and decorator.

Charles Wilson: A former bookmaker, he was sentenced to 30 years and released on parole in August, 1964, four months after the end of the trial. He eluded capture until January, 1968, when he was arrested by Chief Supt Tommy Butler and 30 Mounties near Montreal, in Canada. He was released in December, 1978.

Tommy Wisbey: Another former bookmaker, he was sentenced to 30 years and released on parole in March, 1976.

Lords told of closed shop's three 'bad men'

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Lord Gowrie, Ministry of State at the Department of Employment, last night stepped up the Government's campaign against the closed shop where he took the unusual course of naming the chairman of the Sandwell Council, West Midlands, its personnel director as a local trade union official: "thoroughly bad men by a normal ethical standard."

He told the House of Lords during a debate on the close shop policies of certain local authorities that their action were "thoroughly wicked."

The men named by Lord Gowrie were Mr John Edward chairman of the council who dismissed Miss Joanna Harr for refusing to join a trade union, Mr Hodgkins, the personnel director, and Mr Faux, the National and Local Government Officers' Association.

Lord Gowrie said he hoped that the electors of Sandwell were alert to the kind of action being undertaken in their name. Mr Faux, Lord Gowrie added had faced council employees with the chance of joining a union or being dismissed a hard choice but he had no conscience about doing so.

Councillor Edwards claimed that his council had mandated from the electorate for employee membership on force.

Lord Bruce of Donington from the Labour front bench said that if Miss Harris felt she had been maltreated or unfairly dismissed then remedies were open to her.

Lord Gowrie's attack on Sandwell council comes at a time when the Government is being pressed hard by sections of the Conservative Party to introduce stricter legislation to control that aspect of industrial relations. The Prime Minister last week urged all those with experience of the operation of closed shop to submit their views to James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment.

Parliamentary report, page

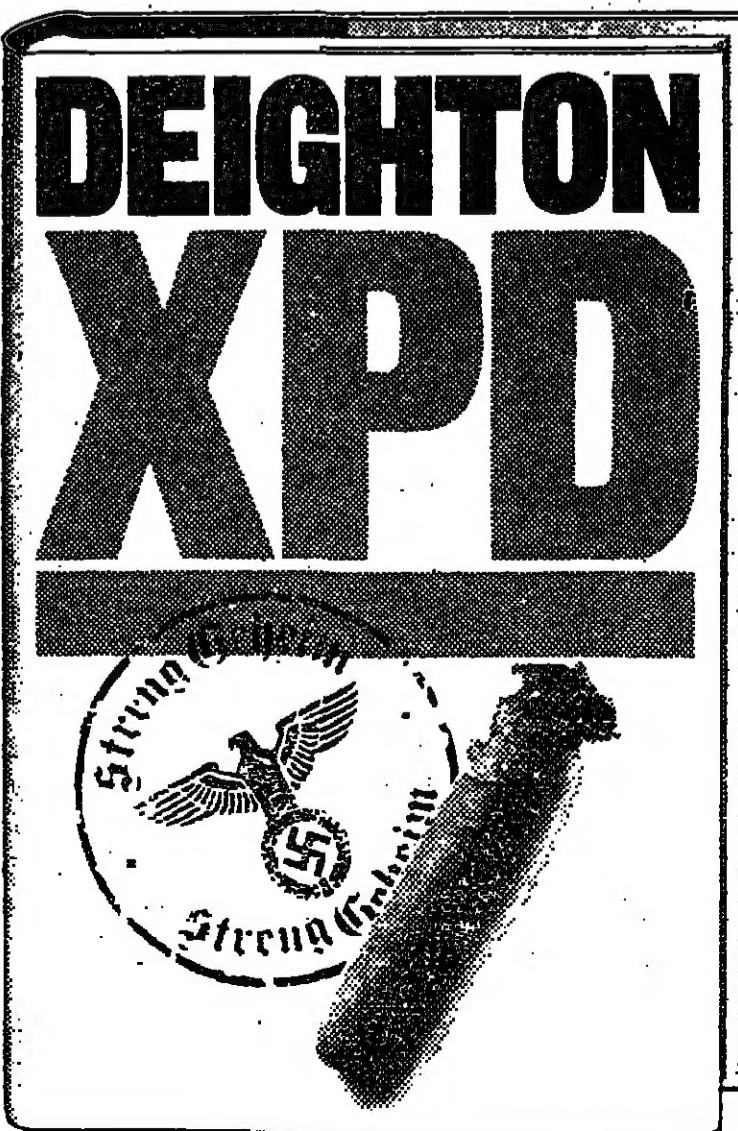
"Terrific"

"Here is a book cram-full of virtues. Let me list them higgledy piggledy. The writing. If this were a mainstream novel, critics crying "Marvellously sensitive" would indicate that the writing alone justified the work. As it is, caught up in the splendidly strongly told story, you hardly notice the innumerable felicities. Then there is the character drawing, ranging confidently through different societies, British, American, German, and succeeding, for example, in putting before us a thoroughly unprepossessing con-man in a way that cannot stop us liking him as we like a good friend. Shifts in relationships, subtle and slight, are handled with equal skilfulness.

Then there is that special characteristic of the espionage novel, the presentation of curious, hard-to-learn facts, here done as well as ever it has been whether of behind-scenes Russian activity or *sub rosa* Whitehall. But what about the dialogue? It is deliciously sharp and flawlessly accurate. Plotting? The book is a breathtakingly clever to-and-fro duel between the British secret service determined to suppress a

hands-shaking meeting between Churchill and Hitler in 1940, even if it means XPD (expedient demise) for someone, and equally ruthless opponents. And that's a pretty terrific plot, too... And I still have not mentioned the overall intelligence that seems to spark out from almost every line."

H.R.F. Keating, *The Times*



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Era ends for plane that never cost a life

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

British Airways' last VC10 airliner will make its final scheduled flight on Sunday from Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, to Heathrow, after which the fleet will be retired, having carried in 17 years about 13 million passengers without a fatality.

The aircraft is to be handed over to the Royal Air Force, which has purchased all 14 in the fleet.

The VC10, conceived by Vickers in 1957, was one of the last great individual products of the British aircraft manufacturing industry, but its purchase by British Overseas Airways Corporation, BA's predecessor, caused violent controversy.

When he was appointed chairman of BOAC in 1964 the late Sir Giles Guthrie tried to cancel the entire order of 30 Super VC10s and replace them with 14 Boeing 707s.

But the plan was countermanded by Mr Julian Amery, the minister responsible, on the ground that it would do extensive injury to the British industry.

'That's Showbiz' to end early

After causing much dissension with performances on Sundays, the West End variety show, *That's Showbiz*, will close on Saturday, a week earlier than scheduled, because of heavy losses incurred in its seven-week run at the Phoenix Theatre.

Nevertheless the producers, Stephen and Fiona Kendall, Lane, still hope to mount a new variety show at the Phoenix, starting some time next month. A decision is expected in the next few days.

Actress misses a show

Barbara Windsor, the actress, who fainted on stage on Tuesday, did not appear in last night's performance of *Entertaining Mr Sloane* at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, west London, on the instruction of her doctor. She hopes to return to the cast tonight.

Betting clerk's luck

Mrs May Toone, aged 50, of Baldock, Hertfordshire, gave up her job as a betting shop clerk at Letchworth yesterday, on hearing that she and her husband had won £28,000 on the pools. She said: "I always left the horses alone."

Doctors reject guidelines for psychosurgery

By Nicholas Timmins

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has rejected the idea of laying down guidelines on the treatment of patients by psychosurgery, in which a small part of the brain is destroyed in an attempt to alleviate psychiatric conditions such as severe depression.

It is, however, to advise its members that a second independent psychiatric opinion should be sought before a decision to operate is taken.

Professor Gerald Timbury, chairman of the public policy committee of the royal college, said yesterday: "We feel that guidelines similar to those we have published for ECT (electroconvulsive therapy) are not required because the operation is performed very infrequently."

About seventy such operations are performed in England and Wales a year.

The college, however, is to study whether an independent panel should advise on the operation in the few cases where

it is considered for patients detained under the Mental Health Act.

The college's decision was disclosed yesterday by Larry Gostin, legal director MIND, at an open day held at the Geoffrey Knight Psychiatric Unit at Brook Green Hospital at Woolwich in south-east London, which performs about two-thirds of the psychosurgery operations in England and Wales.

Mr Gostin said the advice to seek a second opinion was "step forward, but probably no emotion."

MIND favours the creation of independent panels to examine cases, a proposal that may be included in a new Mental Health Bill.

The open day was held to the unit to counter criticism of the operation, which involves side-effects. Dr J. Bridges, the psychiatrist at the unit, said the operation was carried out as a last resort to patients who have not benefited from more conventional treatments, such as drugs and ECT.

Motorists left in doubt after speeding decision

The RAC called on the Home Office yesterday to make an early statement about the use of police radar guns in speed traps. A motorist at Newport Crown Court, Gwent, on Tuesday won his appeal in a speeding case. Two electronics experts said the gun could give false readings, particularly if a police car radio near by was switched on.

An RAC official said yesterday: "It has resulted in many motorists who feel they were wrongly convicted being left in a serious doubt whether they are entitled to a free pardon."

He added: "Since the introduction of radar guns the RAC has been concerned about ways in which they are used. Our earlier concern about these guns has been more than vindicated by the judge's decision."

Lavatory dash costs £30

A motorist's high-speed dash to the lavatory cost him £30 yesterday. In his rush, Lawrence White, a company director, drove through a police radar trap at 90 mph. But after hearing that he was suffering from diarrhoea, magistrates at Burnley, South Yorkshire, decided to let him off lightly. Mrs Mary Thompson, the chairman, told him: "In view of the circumstances we shall only fine you £30 and endorse your licence."

Mr White, aged 45, of Grassmore Road, King's Norton West Midlands, pleaded guilty to speeding on the M1 at Barnsley. He told the court: "I had diarrhoea and was anxious to get to the toilet. I should have stayed at home that day but like a lot of people running small companies I could not afford to take the time off work. I am not a speed merchant and have been driving for 25 years with a clean licence."

Police chief asks blacks for help

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Sir David McNee, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, spoke yesterday of the responsibility of black people to do something about law-breakers in their midst. He also expressed concern about difficulties facing those investigating the Deptford fire, in which 13 black people died, and the state of race relations in London.

In an address at St Lawrence Jewry, London, Sir David said: "Where the black community

has in its midst some who offend against the law then it is as much their responsibility to do something about it as it is mine—in the same way as it is my responsibility as commissioner to root out dishonesty and corruption within the Metropolitan Police."

Sir David also drew attention to the difficulties inhibiting the investigation into the Deptford tragedy in his speech.

Scotland Yard yesterday dismissed as conjecture suggestions that the person or persons who started the Deptford fire

died in it. A report was on its way to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who would decide what to do.

Sir David's address coincided with the release of Home Office statistics of serious offences recorded in 1980.

Homicides recorded included many associated with fires started deliberately: 47 deaths occurred in two London fires in March and August, 1980, and 23 deaths occurred in nine fires in the Hull area in the period 1973-78.

Lords told
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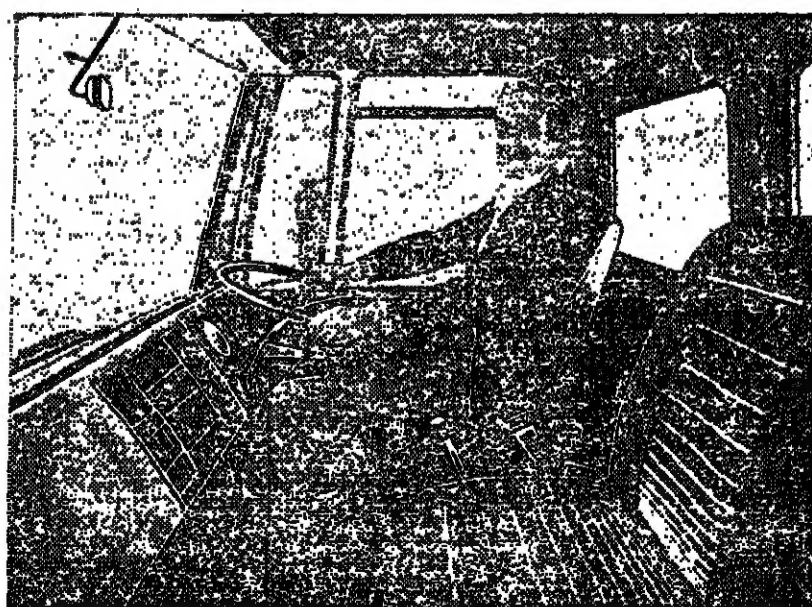
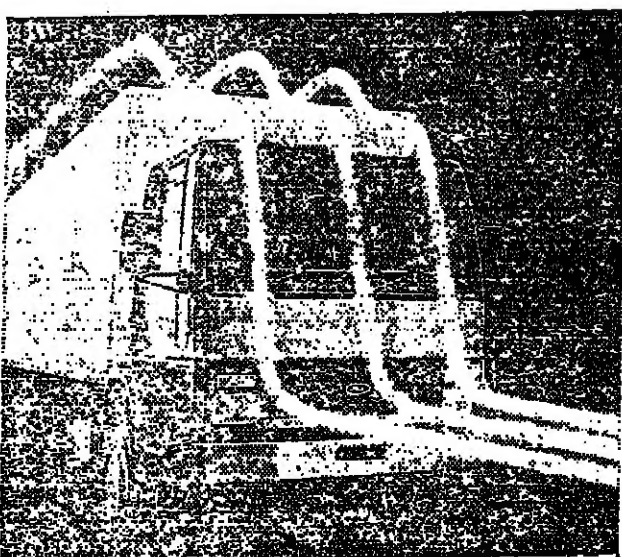
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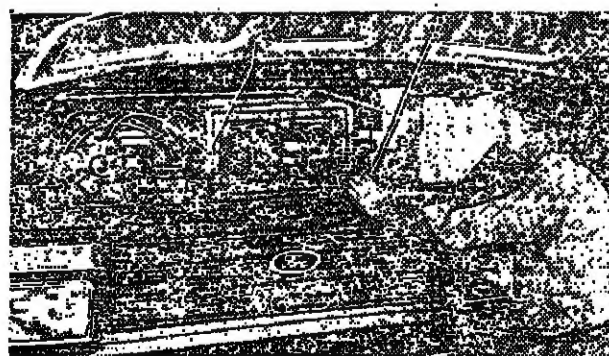
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Sir Roger: Questioned Soviet defector.

Sir Roger given Canadian secrets

By Our Foreign Staff

The allegations against Sir Roger Hollis, brought swift, worldwide reaction. In Ottawa, it was disclosed on Tuesday that Sir Roger was given security "confidences" while on a visit to Canada as an MI5 intelligence officer.

Mr Robert Kaplan, who as Solicitor-General is the Cabinet Minister primarily responsible for Canada's internal security, said in Montreal that he would be briefed by his departmental officials on just what intelligence was given to Sir Roger.

"What is known is that he was treated to confidences of the security of Canada," Mr Kaplan said. He would not say whether Canadian authorities now suspect that that intelligence was passed to foreign agents.

In the Commons on Tuesday, Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, said his recollection was that Mr Igor Gouzenko, who defected from the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa 35 years ago, told a Royal Commission about a mole inside MI5.

Sir Roger went to Canada to interview Mr Gouzenko in 1946, soon after Mr Gouzenko defected with documents revealing the existence of a large Soviet spy network in Canada.

Moscow Radio was quick to describe allegations that Sir Roger Hollis was a Soviet agent as a "concoction" aimed at stirring up anti-Soviet feeling and sowing discord in the arms drive and to expand the network of the intelligence services.

The broadcast was heard only on Moscow's overseas service and was put out surprisingly swiftly after publication in the *Mail* and the charges against Sir Roger.

Thatcher bid to calm the fears

By Fred Emery

The Prime Minister, in her statement to the Commons today on the allegations against Sir Roger Hollis, intends to try to reassure the nation about the present state of the secret service.

She expects to discuss the issue at this morning's Cabinet meeting, and then make what is described in Whitehall as a substantial attempt to deal with the wider matters reported in Mr Chapman Pincher's book *The Hollis Affair*.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's statement is being prepared on the basis of a report by Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet, but the Prime Minister is authoritatively said to have seen several unnamed officials since her return from the EEC summit at Maastricht.

In those Whitehall quarters it is claimed that the timing of the Prime Minister's statement is related to the publication today of Mr Pincher's book, and that the serialisation in the *Daily Mail* alone is not being relied on.

There has, however, been no disposition in official quarters to reassess the substance of the allegations, and why she made no attempt to deal with them at the time of the Commons furor over Professor Anthony Blunt in November, 1979.

It was confirmed by the usual Whitehall sources that Mrs Thatcher received a letter from Mr Jonathan Aitken, Conservative MP for Thanet, East, in January, last year, detailing the allegations. The sources would not say whether Mrs Thatcher had known of the matter before then. The implication of their hesitance is that she was not told.

Mr Aitken has called for an inquiry into those who recruited Sir Roger on the ground that there may even now be second-generation moles in the secret services. In Whitehall there is no confirmation that Mrs Thatcher will agree to any new inquiry.

She, as is usual, will be taking steps to inform former prime ministers and the Leader of the Opposition of the contents of her statement before she rises in the Commons shortly after 3.30pm.

The former prime ministers apparently involved in the investigations of Sir Roger included Mr Edward Heath and Sir Harold Wilson.

The Hollis affair: The 'Daily Mail' text

Tom Driberg was a double agent, Chapman Pincher says

This is the third instalment of the *Daily Mail's* exclusive account of "The Hollis Affair". The *Times* is republishing this material by agreement with the *Daily Mail*.

Tom Driberg, or Baron Bradwell juxta Mare, as he was to become in 1975, was perhaps one of the most extraordinary and certainly most colourful agents that MI5 have ever recruited.

His cover was never less than brilliant. Some may have suspected that he worked for the KGB (which he did as well) but no one ever guessed that the man who was to become Chairman of the Labour Party was on the payroll of the Security Services.

The man who always stood on the far Left of his party did so because MI5 had, while he was still a schoolboy, infiltrated him into the Communist Party. His life thereafter was but a brilliant lie.

It was while he was at Lancing College that his "agent" runner, the late Maxwell Knight, well known for his BBC talks on natural history, instructed him to join the Brighton branch of the Communist Party.

He continued as a member of the party while at Christchurch, Oxford, and was still a member when he joined the *Daily Express* in 1928.

However, MI5's hopes of employing him as a long-term agent inside the Communist Party were soon to collapse.

In 1941, reports from an MI5 agent with the code name M8, crossed the desk of Anthony Blunt.

Blunt was asked by the Russians to try to establish the identity of M8 but failed to do so. Subsequently he was told by his Russian controller that Soviet intelligence had discovered M8 was Driberg.

With unusual clumsiness, the Russians alerted Harry Pollitt, the General Secretary of the Communist Party about the spy in his camp. Because of this tip he summarily expelled Driberg from the Party.

Nevertheless, though the Russians knew about Driberg, MI5 continued to use him and his value soared when he entered Parliament and was able to report on the activities of MPs on both sides of the House.

After the war, the KGB, knowing of his MI5 connection, tried to use him and to feed false information to mislead British intelligence. To this end they persuaded Harry Pollitt to induce him back into the Party as a clandestine member, something which Pollitt assured Driberg was already the position of several other MPs.

Driberg reported the whole episode to MI5 and was told to keep the channels to Pollitt open.

After Driberg visited Moscow in 1966 to see Guy Burgess about the possibility of writing a book about him, he reported back to MI5 that the Russians had asked him to provide information to them about the internal proceedings of the Labour Party.

He was well placed to do so after having been elected to the National Executive in 1949 where he remained until his retirement from Parliament in 1974.

As Labour was not in office, MI5 had no objection to it, so it was agreed that Driberg could report what he liked about his own Party to anyone since no official secrets were involved. In return he promised to use his connection with the KGB in MI5's interest whenever possible.

The Russians gave Driberg two identical brief-cases. When he handed one containing his reports to the Russians in London they handed him the other, containing his payment in banknotes.

'Reports went to Russia and MI5'

Under agreement with the security authorities, Driberg was supposed to give all the money, as well as copies of his reports, to MI5. Over a period of several years he handed in wads of notes amounting to many thousands of pounds, but there seems to be little doubt that he began to retain more and more of the money for himself.

Driberg reported at length on the private lives of his most senior ministerial colleagues including some close friends, and on other MPs, men and women of all parties, given to philandering, as well as on political activities.

This material went not only to the Russians, who could use it for recruiting purposes, but to MI5 as well.

To swell his information, he lent his flat to Parliamentary colleagues, including ministers, for lunch-time trysts. He invariably made subsequent searches in the hope of discovering the identities of ladies who had been taken there.

On one occasion, after lending the flat to a senior colleague, he found an envelope in the handwriting of a woman MP, which he recognized. He then had the effrontery to accuse the colleague concerned of risking damage to the Party by causing what could easily have become an open scandal.

Both MI5 and the KGB benefited from Driberg's activities. MI5 was able to extend its knowledge of crypto-Communists in the Labour Party machine as well as in Parliament. The Russians were able to extend their list of those with character weaknesses who might be susceptible to blackmail.



Lord Bradwell: Brilliant cover.

The Hollis affair: 2

MI5's fat files on 60 Labour members

□ Sir Martin Fucini Jones, the ex-head of MI5, once said: "If the Russian Intelligence Service can recruit a backbench MP and he climbs to a Ministerial position, the spy is home and dry."

He did not make that remark without case evidence to back it. MI5 and Special Branch acting on information provided by defectors and by surveillance of Soviet Bloc intelligence officers, have fat files on more than 60 Labour MPs and on a score or so of Labour Peers.

Such files indicate that while some are or have been helpful to the Soviet cause for money, sometimes coupled with threats of blackmail, the majority are ideological agents of influence, giving their assistance because they are secret members of the Communist Party.

An instructive example of suspected Soviet penetration of the House of Commons concerns a former Labour MP for Acton, Bernard Floud.

In 1967 Harold Wilson wanted to make Floud a junior Minister and it is standard practice that if a Prime Minister wishes to give office to an MP, MI5 is specifically asked if it has anything to his detriment. In this case there was plenty.

It was known that Floud had been recruited to the Soviet cause at Oxford by James Klugmann, a Communist best-known for his activities at the rival University of Cambridge.

Floud, in turn, had recruited Guy Burgess should not have returned to London. There was no actual evidence against him to hold him and MI5 was terrified, knowing that he had been living in Moscow, that he might suddenly return one day, swan around Britain, cocking a snook at both the security services and the British public.

So Driberg's task was to induce Burgess to recall some details of his brief time in the highly secret war time Special Operations Executive and to name some of the people who had worked with him. This Driberg succeeded in doing.

The publishers, Weidenfeld and Nicholson, were totally unaware of the part they were playing in this extraordinary game of bluff when they were warned that they risked prosecution under the Official Secrets Act unless they removed the censured parts of the manuscript before publication, which in all innocence they duly did.

In the meantime I was approached by an outsider to write a story in my newspaper to say that because of what Burgess had told Driberg, the authorities now had evidence which could lead to the arrest and prosecution of Guy Burgess should he ever return to Britain because he had committed a

provable breach of the Official Secrets Act. So Burgess was effectively frightened off.

It was an extraordinary episode from which nearly everyone gained. Driberg made money; both out of his publishers and out of the funds of KGB and MI5. The KGB was happy because it managed to put across its story and MI5 was contented because it used this device to ensure that Burgess himself was never able to return to Britain.

Burgess died aged 52 in 1963, lonely and homesick in Moscow, perhaps only guessing how just as he had betrayed his friends, so Driberg had betrayed him.

As with many double agents, Driberg was suspected by MI5 of doing more for the Soviet block than he admitted in his regular debriefings. Then in 1969 the Czech defector Josef Frolik, who held information against several Labour MPs, gave specific information about a senior Labour MP who was a homosexual, had been recruited by Czech Intelligence and had the code-name "Crocodile".

Frolik described how the Czech Intelligence man in London had been smartly censured by the KGB for approaching Driberg because "Crocodile" was already taken by another man who had been named "Crocodile" but did not know his name, identified him as Driberg from a spread of photographs shown to him by MI5.

Driberg was therefore taxed with this information by the MI5 case-officer handling him. "Have you ever done anything for the Czechs?" he was asked. "I have written them a few articles", he replied with a shrug.

Under questioning, however, he admitted that he had sold to the Czechs additional information about the internal squabbles of the Labour Party and personal scandals about who was sleeping with whom.

"All harmless stuff", Driberg insisted with his usual charm. He admitted that he had continued to do this while Chairman of the Labour Party in 1958 passing the information to his Czech controller whom he knew only as "Vaclav".

'Curiosity over the peerage'

Apart from warning him about the danger of giving the Russians any information which had not been passed by MI5, there was nothing the security authorities could do or wanted to do, in view of the scandal which would ensue if they found out that there had been a Labour Party chairman who was a double agent.

An opportunity for MI5 to disprove Driberg's services had arisen during the premiership of Harold Macmillan, who had discovered that several MPs, mainly Tories, were being run by MI5 agents.

The MI5 chiefs were told that this was no longer permissible and the MPs were all paid off with the exception of Driberg, who refused to resign. He continued to report information to MI5 even after he had been elevated to the Lords as Lord Bradwell, being known in MI5 headquarters as "The Lord of the Scribes".

The award of a peerage to such a notorious homosexual, who had admitted to another MP, Woodrow Wyatt, that he had once enjoyed the favours of a House of Commons employee in the Members' lavatory, was a cause for public curiosity. While this was made by Harold Wilson, ostensibly by Driberg's devotion to the Labour Party, it had been requested by his friend Michael Foot.

Lady Falkender explained to me that Foot felt sorry for Driberg because he was going blind, a fact confirmed to me by another of his friends, Mervyn Stockwood, the Bishop of Southwark. Foot, apparently, had never known of the honour on behalf of anybody but he and Wilson felt that he could not refuse.

Inquiries after Lord Bradwell's death in 1976 convinced MI5 that he had been controlled primarily by the KGB since the end of the war, partly because he may have been blackmailed, but mainly because he had moved further to the Left.

The KGB had plenty of incriminating photographs. He had even been caught in a homosexual situation with Burgess when he visited him in Moscow and was shown the photographs as an extra "inducement", as he reported to MI5 on his return.

To his friends Driberg pretended that because his homosexuality was so well known, photographs, however revealing, would be useless as blackmail. In reality this was far from being the case, as Driberg well knew.

All the KGB needed to do was to post prints of the pictures to various influential people and to newspapers and magazines.

The publicity would have made it impossible to continue to support Driberg's immunity from prosecution for his propensity for committing homosexual acts in public places remained an offence. It would also have ended his political career.

It would have been no more than just if Driberg had been betrayed, for the overall verdict on him in journalism, politics and intelligence is that, eventually, he betrayed everybody. His deceitful behaviour over so many years hardly justified Michael Foot's postmortem tribute that "he never budged from his Socialist convictions".

Chapman Pincher and Associated Newspaper Group, 1981.

Conflicting reasons given for the eclipse of Herr Schmidt

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, March 25

What is the matter with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor?

Herr Schmidt seems to be going through a political trough, which is difficult to define. The superb operator who normally meets and deftly tackles each problem as it comes seems strangely inactive.

The once confident leader, who would firmly state his policies, is unusually quiet. An impartial observer remarked: "It is as if he had lost his initiative, almost as if he were losing the leadership."

As the Chancellor retreats into the background, the limelight is being taken by Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor, with statements, interviews and important visits to Washington, Warsaw and—next week—Moscow.

It has become fashionable, though superficial, to remark that Herr Schmidt, not Herr Schmidt, seems to be running the country.

Has Herr Schmidt lost his touch, or is he deliberately just taking over for the time being? Those around him give conflicting reports. Some say he has retreated into himself, embittered at the lack of support from his own party, but others—including his own staff—say he is relaxed and in good spirits, but disconcertingly inactive.

There appears to be no evidence to support suggestions that he is suffering from depression, but among his Free Democrat coalition partners there is the feeling that as a politician who particularly thrives on success, he is suffering from the setbacks of recent months.

Herr Kurt Becker, the Chancellor's spokesman and confident, angrily denies that Herr Schmidt is either inactive or withdrawn. "That is quite wrong", he says. "I cannot see any basis for that in the Chancellor's daily engagements."

Whether real or merely perceived, the change in the Chancellor's style appears to have much to do with the increasing criticism and opposition from within his own Social Democrat Party.

Opposition from both the right and left wings of the Social Democrats look like preventing him making a highly advantageous sale of tanks and other weapons to Saudi Arabia, and will almost certainly compel him to scrap a deal to sell two submarines to Chile.

While the Chancellor appears prepared to give way, there is increasing resistance on subjects on which he would rather resign than budge. Two junior Cabinet ministers recently questioned the party's support of the NATO missiles policy and Social Democrats in northern

Germany are increasingly coming out against his nuclear energy policy.

A five-point document approved last month by the party executive, has largely failed to restore party unity and strains between its leader and its members are evident.

Sources in the party believe Herr Schmidt is biding his time in the hope that these internal problems will blow over.

Diplomatic observers, however, suggest that the Chancellor is aware that he is probably in his last term of office and that he will be unable to fulfil long-term aims. His particular personal bitterness towards Mrs Margaret Thatcher, they believe, is not so much to the fish dispute as to the feeling that by being so difficult, she is thwarting his hopes of a closely knit and well-functioning European Community.

The Free Democrats are deeply worried about the stability of their bigger coalition partners and the lack of firm hand. Herr Genscher, it is implied, has had to fill vacuum. Once troublesome partners, the Free Democrats are now doing everything they can to encourage harmony among the Social Democrats.

"But", said one, "this process of erosion cannot go on forever. Something will have to happen soon or everything will fall to pieces."

Returning heroine tells why she said 'No'

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Commons yesterday that during the EEC heads of government meeting at Maastricht, Holland, on Monday and Tuesday she spent most of the time on fishing issues saying that Britain's EEC partners were doing so "rather reluctantly".

It did not take much trading between the lines of her statement to realize that Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, must have been heavily sick of the time he spent in Brussels.

Be that as it may, Mrs Thatcher was greeted as some sort of returning heroine yesterday by Tory MPs and was even awarded a grandstanding public welcome by Labour politicians. Indeed, there was little else but fish on the Commons menu for the Prime Minister.

Fishery interests in the Commons spread far and wide, crossing all party barriers and MPs left the Prime Minister and Mr Peter Walker, who will carry on the battle in Brussels on Friday with his fellow agricultural ministers, in no doubt that there will be deep trouble for the Government if there should be any backtracking.

British feelings about fish

Britain was to blame, and that she had somehow "sold out". It was insisted that she had been sold out as was feared in protection of national interests.

She was apparently baffled why she should have been accused of "cheating" West Germany by Herr Helmut Schmidt. It came all of him to say so, she apparently feels, when Britain had tried so hard to reach agreement.

It was also pointed out that Britain hopes to benefit as much as any other EEC nation, including Germany and France, from a European fishing agreement with Canada.

Gulf war in miniature costs 20 lives

From Our Own Correspondent

Beirut, March 25

At least 20 people were reported killed and 50 wounded in the ancient eastern Lebanese city of Baalbek today when rival militias supporting Iran and Iraq fought each other in the streets.

The combatants, using machine guns and rocket launched grenades, set fire to several buildings in the city, which houses some of the finest Roman remains in the Middle East.

Gunmen of the Shia Muslim Amal militia, loyal to the Iranian revolution of Ayatollah Khomeini, were involved in battles through the day with forces from the Arab Socialist Baath Party, a pro-Iraqi group which has fought similar pitched battles with Amal in Beirut.

It was probably inevitable that this proxy version of the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq would at some stage break out in Baalbek since the city's population of 100,000 are predominantly Shia Muslims.

Iraq has poured money into Shia housing projects in Lebanon and thus has its own following among the community.

The governor of Baalbek appealed this afternoon for Syrian troops to intervene in the fighting in order to rescue children and teachers trapped inside a secondary school near the city centre.

Israel defied as Lebanese troops patrol UN zone

From Robert Fisk

Arzoun, Lebanon, March 25

Undermined by the anger of Majid Sada Haddad, the commander of the Israeliis, the United Nations force in southern Lebanon is giving regular Lebanese soldiers increased responsibility for security in the UN zone.

Lebanese troops are now patrolling the narrow, hilltop roads of southern Lebanon for the first time in six years often travelling without United Nations escorts. This policy of increased "Lebanization" has come on the personal initiative of Major-General William Callaghan, the new United Nations Force commander.

The 700-strong Lebanese Army battalion stationed beside the small village of Arzoun in an area nominally controlled by the United Nations Senegalese battalion, is carrying out regular mobile patrols under United Nations command. Supported by their own Saladin armoured personnel carriers, the Lebanese troops are trying—in however small a way—to show that their country's sovereignty can extend once more into southern Lebanon.

The new policy represents a considerable military and political gamble by General Callaghan. The United States originally supported the deployment

of Lebanese troops in the United Nations zone and has undertaken to reequip the Lebanese Army with American weapons. If Israel continues to object, the presence of the soldiers, the White House could find itself in an embarrassing position.

The United States gave great encouragement to the Lebanese to rebuild their shattered Army after the 1975-76 civil war, an aim which is unlikely to be taken kindly by the Israelis. This forms the background to the extraordinary episode last week when Haddad killed a UN soldier given a UN position round the village of Kantara, killing two UN soldiers and wounding 15 others. Two more UN soldiers have since died from their wounds.

The Lebanese Army had been ordered into Kantara by General Callaghan and the bombardment was Major Haddad's way of ordering them out.

Major Haddad's pure animosity has been trying to amend General Callaghan as a racist for some days now and United Nations officers believe an attempt is also being made, in the name of peace, to drive a wedge between white and black troops in the United Nations contingent.

BBC says jamming costs Moscow £60m

By Ian Bradley

The Soviet Union is spending more in five or six days jamming Western broadcasts than the BBC Russian Service costs to run in a year, according to calculations revealed by the BBC yesterday.

American engineers have estimated that last year the Russians spent about £60m on

jamming while their network of jammers cost about £100m to install. The BBC Russian Service costs £900,000 a year.

In an effort to beat the jammers, the BBC will on Sunday begin a continuous five-hour relay of its Russian Service from Moscow between 7 pm and midnight Moscow time throughout the year. It will replace three

separate evening transmissions. The new transmission will take account of the fact that Soviet Union will go over to summer time on April 1.

The BBC Russian Service, which first started in 1945, has been jammed for 19 of its 35 years. Jamming was most recently reintroduced in August last year.

President clips Mr Haig's wings

From Patrick Brangan
Washington, March 25
Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, has lost his first public skirmish with the White House. He declared yesterday that he disapproved of a proposal that Vice-President Bush should be put in charge of crisis management, and said that he was not satisfied with the present system of making decisions on foreign policy. In the evening, the President announced that Mr Bush would get job, not Mr Haig.

It amounted to a public rebuke for the Secretary of State. Mr Reagan tried to take some of the sting away this afternoon by telling reporters that "the Secretary of State is my primary adviser on foreign affairs, and in that capacity he is the chief formulator and spokesman for foreign policy for this Administration." The fact remains that Mr Haig has suffered a serious reverse and that his standing in the Government, and therefore abroad, has suffered.

Some of Mr Reagan's most senior advisers in the White House thought that Mr Haig had been taking on altogether too much responsibility. He has repeatedly claimed that he is in charge of foreign policy, under the President's direction, that he is the "vicar" for foreign affairs.

He clearly wanted to avoid being subverted by Mr Richard Allen, the President's National Security Adviser, in the way Mr Vance, then secretary of State, had his authority undermined by Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's adviser, and the way Mr William Rogers, Mr Nixon's first Secretary of State, was destroyed by Dr Henry Kissinger.

Mr Haig submitted proposals for the organization of foreign policy on almost the first day of Mr Reagan's Administration. The White House staff, including Mr Allen and Mr Edwin Meese, the co-ordinator, succeeded in stopping this pre-emptive strike, and now the Secretary of State has been publicly rebuffed for questioning the President's authority. The State Department said last night that he had no intention of resigning.

Mr Bush was made chairman of the emergency committee precisely to avoid a sharp conflict between Mr Haig and Mr Allen. If Mr Allen had been put in charge, as his predecessors were, Mr Haig would have resented it. The Vice-President, who was once director of the Central Intelligence Agency and headed the American missions to the United Nations and to China, seemed a well-qualified compromise.

The Secretary of State was not enthusiastic, and made the mistake of letting his lack of enthusiasm be widely known. Some observers see his dispute with Mr Bush as the first round in the race for the Republican nomination in 1984, if Mr Reagan does not run again.

Mr Haig's defeat is partly a victory for Mr Allen, but is more of a victory for senior and very conservative members of Mr Reagan's staff.

Appeal to Mr Reagan not to arm Unita

From David Cross
Washington, March 25
Senator Andre Goncalves Pereira, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, today became the latest in a line of allied government leaders to come to Washington to exchange views on international problems with the new Administration.

Uganda gunmen attack Obote HQ and bomb Kampala power supply

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, March 25
Kampala and the whole of western Uganda were plunged into darkness when anti-government groups damaged the main electricity supply line from the Owen Falls hydroelectric station at the source of the Nile last night.

In other attacks around Kampala the broadcasting station on Bugolobi Hill was damaged, and armed men sprayed the ruling Uganda People's Congress headquarters with machine-gun bullets, wounding two party workers.

Four heavy explosions were heard by Kampala residents, and telephone services were interrupted for several hours. The Uganda Freedom Movement claimed responsibility for today's attacks. A spokesman for the underground group, telephoning from Uganda, said they had planned to make the attacks earlier this week, but had delayed them because President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone had been visiting Uganda.



A special kind of need

A special kind of care

Civil servants sharply criticized

French urged to adopt active strategy on poor

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 25
A year last February President Giscard d'Estaing met Father Joseph Wresinski, a Franciscan friar, who has devoted his whole life to helping the underprivileged in France.

Father Wresinski founded the movement, *Aid To All Distress*—*Fourth World*, to help more than a million French people who eke out a miserable existence outside the bounds of society.

Holes found in Fresnes jail security

From Ian Murray
Paris, March 25
M Emile Bance, governor of Fresnes prison in the Val de Marne, has been "invited" to take early retirement after an alleged murder by a condemned murderer to escape.

What will his future be without your help?
Please send a donation to:
Children First, Room No. A6, Church of England Children's Society, Old Town Hall, Kennington Road, London SE11 4QD.

Portugal, however, is trying to improve relations with its former African colonies such as Angola and Mozambique by offering economic aid to the governments in power irrespective of their political colour.

His concern at the Elysee visit was especially to draw the attention of the President, who had on many occasions in the past given support to the movement, to the fact that all the elaborate policies of social assistance and redistribution had often failed to benefit those who needed help most.

The report is a sharp indictment of the French administration by this working party of senior civil servants, who accuse it of "secreting poverty".

The report begins significantly with a quotation from Ernest Renan to the effect that "there is no greater injustice than to handle equally things which are unequal".

THINKING ABOUT RETIREMENT?

Disabled? You could stop work at 60

Job Release Scheme

Job Release Scheme

The State Department first denied that members of the South African delegation had met any senior officials. Official contacts between military officials of the two countries have been forbidden on American soil since 1963.

The report does not contain any analysis or statistics of poverty in France, but lists seven priorities and 60 different proposals, some of which break distinctly new ground.

The report suggests among other things that social security officials should adopt towards the least privileged an active strategy like that of firms towards markets they have decided to conquer.

Commenting on the decision, M Christian Dabiane, director of the prison service, said: "The functions of authority are not in keeping with irresponsibility. When mistakes go so far as non-execution of orders, it is intolerable."

Later, however, the State Department acknowledged that Rembrandt Pienaar, the South African Minister, had met Mr Kirkpatrick.

It also suggests the creation of a "social income" which would be paid to those who do not have access to the different kinds of social benefits, and it emphasizes the need for an all-out campaign against illiteracy.

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From Stephen Taylor
Salisbury, March 25
The announcement yesterday by South Africa that it is scrapping the preferential trade agreement with Zimbabwe was unexpected here and is regarded as a political move which will damage Zimbabwe's economy.

South Africa is by far Zimbabwe's most important trading partner, being a convenient and lucrative export market and the source of the bulk of imports apart from petrol products. Last year about 140m Zimbabwe dollars (about 57m)

was available through the United Nations. Mr Wan Zhichuan, a senior official from the Chinese Ministry of Economic Relations with Foreign Countries, is returning to Peking later this week after 10 days of discussions here with Undro, other United Nations bodies, including the World Health Organisation, the World Food Programme, and Western diplomats.

Undro expects that Mr Zhichuan's visit may be followed soon by that of a higher delegation

Salisbury fears punitive Pretoria trade bars

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Employers Tomorrow, you could be asked about the Job Release Scheme.

You've probably seen the new Job Release Scheme advertisements, aimed at people who are approaching retirement. Whatever their reasons for applying for Job Release, you can be sure they've thought long and hard about it, but they need your agreement to go ahead.

This would enable the men and women who join the Scheme to stop work up to a year before they would normally retire, on the understanding that you take on replacements from the unemployed register - though not necessarily for the same jobs.

Disabled men aged 60 to 63
Special provision has been made for disabled men (you've probably seen these advertisements too) and with your agreement to take on someone from the unemployed register (a disabled person, wherever possible), they would be able to stop work up to five years before they would normally retire.

So think of the opportunities to make promotions and bring in new blood, apart from making some people very happy.

Make sure you have all the facts about Job Release: ring Eileen Tingey on 01-213 5538, 01-213 6857, or write to her at P.O. Box 702, London SW20 8SZ.

Job Release Scheme
Department of Employment DE

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SECRETARIAL

Stella Fisher
IN THE STRAND
SEC TO COURSE
ADMINISTRATOR
W.I.
Though this is essentially a secretarial appointment, it requires someone with a 4-5 year interest in people. Ability to cope with a volume of typing and S.H. and the freedom to spend occasional short periods away from home. Salary necessary. 22-40. 255.000

Stella Fisher Bureau
110 Strand, WC2R 0J-436 6644
Recruitment Consultants

EXECUTIVE P.A. £6,000

Enjoy the elegance of a private office and position when you accept a top executive P.A. position. This is a full-time position with a salary of £6,000 per annum. The ideal candidate will be a woman with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the executive's office and will be required to travel extensively. If you are interested, please contact Stella Fisher Bureau on 01-436 6644.

Drake Personnel (consultants)

Secretary/P.A./Organiser

Marketing agency in sports equipment. Requires a woman with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the agency and will be required to travel extensively. If you are interested, please contact Drake Personnel on 01-436 6644.

AMERICAN BANK

Sec/Recept £6,000

City American bank require a mature aged 30-45 years for a secretarial position. The ideal candidate will be a woman with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the bank's secretarial services and will be required to travel extensively. If you are interested, please contact American Bank on 01-436 6644.

ARCHITECTS IN ATTRACTIVE WEST END STUDIO

Need a cheerful and presentable secretary to assist in the day-to-day running of the studio. The ideal candidate will be a woman with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the studio and will be required to travel extensively. If you are interested, please contact Architects in Attractive West End Studio on 01-436 6644.

PERSONNEL £2,000

International Personnel Ltd. requires a woman with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company's personnel services and will be required to travel extensively. If you are interested, please contact International Personnel Ltd. on 01-436 6644.

BOOKKEEPER/SECRETARY

For a small business. The ideal candidate will be a woman with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the business's bookkeeping and secretarial services and will be required to travel extensively. If you are interested, please contact Bookkeeper/Secretary on 01-436 6644.

RECEPTIONIST

For a busy office. The ideal candidate will be a woman with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office's reception services and will be required to travel extensively. If you are interested, please contact Receptionist on 01-436 6644.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

For a public relations firm. The ideal candidate will be a woman with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the firm's public relations services and will be required to travel extensively. If you are interested, please contact Public Relations on 01-436 6644.

PROGRAMME JOB

For a television programme. The ideal candidate will be a woman with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the programme's production services and will be required to travel extensively. If you are interested, please contact Programme Job on 01-436 6644.

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For a travel agency. The ideal candidate will be a woman with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the agency's travel services and will be required to travel extensively. If you are interested, please contact Out and About on 01-436 6644.

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SECRETARIAL

For a secretarial position. The ideal candidate will be a woman with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company's secretarial services and will be required to travel extensively. If you are interested, please contact Secretarial on 01-436 6644.

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THE COMPANIES

Ethnic TV helps to break down national barriers

Australians tune in worldwide

From Douglas Aiton
Melbourne, March 25

Since its inception in 1956, Australian television has often been thought of as the worst in the world, but now it appears that things are changing.

Ethnic television was introduced in Melbourne and Sydney last year and it is already winning strong praise from hitherto sceptical viewers and critics.

Nearly half of Australians, aged under 20 have parents who were born outside the country. Immediately after the war, "New Australians", although encouraged to come here to settle, were very much in the minority and were treated as second class citizens.

Now, such are the numbers of immigrant Australians, they are a strong force in Australian society and evidence of this is being felt in many areas.

Most immigrants have a European background, usually Italian or Greek, but there are many from South America and South-East Asia.

Ethnic television has been one result of the increased influence of the immigrants and all Australians are beginning

to feel its benefits, although only about 3 per cent of viewers choose to watch it. Its audience, however, is regularly increasing.

Ethnic television was once considered an election stunt by the Fraser Government, as it is almost entirely financed from government funds.

But five months after it started going on air in Melbourne and Sydney, it is no longer called "hasty, extravagant, ill-considered and an election stunt" as it was variously described during last year's election campaign.

Ethnic television has been carefully developed by Mr. Bruce Gynsels, an experienced broadcaster, into an alternative not only to the largely frothy offerings from the other commercial networks, but also to the ABC, the Australian equivalent of the BBC, which has a tendency to be dull.

The result has been some superb viewing, particularly of films and documentaries from parts of the world seldom given a showing in Australia, such as South America, Israel and Western Europe. Some of the most widely

acclaimed programmes have come from Eastern Europe.

The news service has also impressed by giving an international coverage. The biggest problem has been the necessity for subtitles. There are 12 full-time and 40 part-time people working on subtitles alone. It is an extremely complex literary and technical process taking 30 hours for each one hour of foreign film.

Early indications are not only that all this effort is worth while, but that Channel O, the ethnic channel, will perhaps alter the entire pattern of television viewing.

Apart from offering a genuine alternative, Channel O is also helping to break down national barriers while broadening people's perceptions of the world. An added bonus is that the channel is proving to be extremely popular with deaf people.

Ethnic television is not only attempting to provide television of exceptional quality, but it is also enabling Australians to know a world that extends beyond Britain and the United States.

Concern in Delhi over US arms for Pakistan

From Kuldip Nayar
Delhi, March 25

India has expressed to the United States its "grave concern" over the supply of a "large quantity of arms" to Pakistan and over the militarization of the Gulf region.

The Indian Foreign Ministry also summoned early this week the British High Commissioner and the West German Ambassador in Delhi to express its unhappiness over the West's arms supplies to Pakistan.

Mr. Narasimha Rao, the Foreign Minister, told Parliament today that he had personally conveyed his concern to the United States Embassy in Delhi.

Mr. Rao said that India always wanted Pakistan to be stable, which means that it should have enough arms to defend itself, but the quantity of arms being acquired by Pakistan seemed to be disproportionate to its actual requirements.

He, however, rejected an MP's demand for a regional summit to discuss mutual matters, saying that this was likely to prove counterproductive. But he told the House that India had agreed to take part in a preliminary meeting of foreign ministers of the region to be held soon.

Denying that India was shying away from making a strong protest to the United States against the arming of Pakistan, Mr. Rao said: "Our concern should be judged from the fact that the supplies in the past had usually resulted in a setback to normalization within the subcontinent. All these years, we have been assuring Pakistan that India poses no threat to its security. We have also advised it against an arms build-up since that creates unnecessary tension."

Mr. Rao again said that Pakistan had rejected India's offer of a non-aggression pact, saying that normalization could be attained through the Sino-Pakistan agreement signed between India and Pakistan after the Bangladesh war in 1972.

India could not be equated with Pakistan in the matter of acquisition of arms, he went on. The fact was that with the stated purpose of deterring "Soviet adventurism" and protecting vital Western interests in the Gulf region, the United States was likely to supply to Pakistan a variety of advanced weapons including aircraft, tanks, anti-tank missiles and air defence systems.

United States spokesmen had referred to the possibility of supplying arms to Afghan rebels, though Pakistan had said it would not allow its territory to be used for this purpose.

While noting this statement, Mr. Rao said, "we would like to make it clear that an active participation in building up a 'security consensus' in terms of great-power rivalries would be inconsistent with the professions that Pakistan had made while joining the non-aligned movement in Havana."

Nuclear explosion: Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, said today that if the need was felt for setting off another nuclear explosion for peaceful purposes "we shall go ahead with it."

Dr. Rajiv Gandhi was replying in Parliament to a question why India had not carried out further such explosions as that in Rajasthan in 1974.



Wartime charges: Herr Arpad Wigand, a former SS officer accused of ordering the deaths of Jews in Warsaw during the Second World War, on his way to court in Hamburg where he faces trial with two wartime colleagues. Herr Wigand, aged 75, a first lieutenant in the SS, who served as a Warsaw police magistrate, is accused of having one man shot who refused to give up some furs and ordering the deaths of 50 people who were unable to work in concentration camps. He is also accused of the deaths of about 90 people who were being sent to the Treblinka concentration camp.

Britain has 'no choice' on constitutional request

From John Best
Ottawa, March 25

The Government has stated that Anglo-Canadian relations will be severely strained if Westminster refuses to comply with a request from Ottawa to patriate the Canadian constitution.

In a report made public last night by Mr. Jean Chrétien, the Justice Minister, the Government said Britain had no choice but to accede to such a request.

The report was essentially a rebuttal of one published earlier this year by a British House of Commons committee, headed by Sir Anthony Kershaw. The Kershaw report, to which the

Thatcher Government has still not officially responded, suggested that Westminster should take account of the views of the Canadian provinces, in dealing with the patriation question.

Eight of Canada's 10 provinces oppose the federal Government's resolution now before the Canadian Parliament, asking Westminster to give Canada final control over this country's constitution.

The Canadian constitution is still chiefly embodied in the British North America Act of 1867. The Act is still domiciled in Britain because the federal and provincial governments there have never been able to agree on a system to amend it.

Malaysians lead move away from British universities because of higher fees

From David Watts
Singapore, March 25

Malaysia will shortly set the seal on a new policy to divert its students from the higher educational institutions of Britain to other countries, and the Thai Government is quietly reducing the number of students who will study there in future.

In other South-East Asian countries it is now clear that what will be the effect of higher charges for foreign students introduced at British universities this autumn but the increases are likely to mean fewer enrolments from the less well-off countries.

There is bitterness at what many in the area see as a cold-blooded severing of historic ties which, in the long run, will have detrimental effects on trading and cultural links.

But this sense of bitterness is gradually giving way to the recognition that the British Government has no intention of

changing its policy and the sooner reality is faced the better. That does not, however, prevent some Government officials criticizing Britain's spending priorities.

For a number of reasons the Malaysians have been the most outspoken. With the largest foreign student contingent in Britain, estimated at 17,000, Malaysian officials are due to meet next week to consider alternative countries for the higher education of the country's brightest pupils.

Daruk Musa Hitam, the Malaysian Minister of Education, has said he is "fed up" with making representations to the British Government and he, and his officials, are looking for alternatives in the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

The situation presents particular problems for the Malaysians, not only because of a lack of alternative facilities at home and the numbers of students

involved—but because many of those going to Britain were of Chinese origin who are discriminated against in Malaysia itself as a result of the Government's policy of promoting Malays in all spheres of life.

There is thus likely to be more pressure for a better deal for the Chinese at home.

Singapore usually has about 2,000 students in Britain at any one time. Traditionally, the Government-sponsored president's scholars go to Britain and the bulk of the rest are sent privately.

The universities of Kent and Sussex have had representatives in the country making pitches; asserting that British higher education was still the best available and that with three-year courses in British universities and four-year courses in the United States over all costs were probably not that different.

Prudence Glynn

Trust William to strike a cord with teenage girls

Buying books for teenage girls is almost as difficult as buying clothes for them: almost because nothing can compare with the horrors of wasting time and money, the lack of purpose and clear direction and the cultural shocks sustained in the course of vetting what certain stores deem suitable for young women when they are not wearing jeans and yet another sweat shirt.

Buying books can never be a waste of time, and the ones worth reading can all be found under one roof if that roof covers an efficient shop, so feet ache rather more from standing instead of tramping—a less vicious sort of ache. On the other hand, the choice is no less baffling once you leave the literary equivalent of the jeans and sweat shirt (Black Beauty, Emma) and launch yourself into a special occasion number. As the special number droops unworn in the wardrobe, a living reproach to your bad budgeting, inane social aspirations and, above all, your shape, so on the shelf rest dustily all sorts of well-intentioned and seasonally timed gifts of the written word. They have not been opened, let alone read in the bath.

There seem to be two problems to overcome. The first is the very natural, humane and delightful desire to pass on to another the knowledge of something, written, spoken, made, which has brought pleasure into your own life. But remember those smashing school years, written and read in perfect innocence, which cause the generation-gapped listeners to fall about with laughter and say that being in love with the books mistress is not necessarily a bad thing. Games on hobbies and recreations are another snare. I have had to find out the hard way that the genre of Enchiridion and Other Pony Stories lacks a certain edge now that the young people who once nabbed your pony would now be after your Metro.

The other problem in choosing books for girls is encountered by those parents and assorted literature-givers who feel that, to prove themselves ageless, they have to know by insight what the young read. That is a great mistake. Intelligent young people look to adults for different opinions, a wider choice, and not competition on whose mental

equivalent of disco pants are the righter. You can glean ideas of what they want to know particularly as the vision of O levels—a very precise discipline—show in the whites of their eyes. They ask if you have read *To Kill a Mockingbird* (yes, but all hopeless old romantics like me only remember Gregory Peck in the film) or *Journeys' End*.

This is the moment which calls for stern comment. Forget *Gone with the Wind* when prepping up on history and read *Forever Amber*, just as well written, better researched, less nostalgic and biased. Not such a good film, though.

Thus it was with a certain sense of delight that I received an unexpected book, *Goodnight Mister Tom*, intended for teenagers. Mind you, nobody concerned with its presentation had said so, and the jacket hovered somewhere between *Just William Strikes Back* and *Lark Rise to Candleford*. So I gave it to a teenage girl for comment.

I have said that my receipt of the book was qualified, both by immediate reaction to its looks (Ugh!) and to its story line. Nor was I impressed by the name of the author and the fact that she was an actress, Michelle Magorian. A fancy, few names, no good on the stage or how did she have time to write? Nor did my impressions improve when I went to interview the (yes, testing) author, because her stage name is Mikki Magorian. Fake unisex names alarm me far more than dear old romantics like Barbara Cartland, (Barbara Villiers, Lady Castlemaine, Duchess of Cleveland, mistresses of Charles II).

Names are a great precursor of reputations; unfortunately they cause the cynical to form immutable preconceptions about how they will look and be.

So I expected to find Michelle Magorian tiny, elf-like, failed as an actress, Irish and aiming her book like an elephant gun at anyone who came within peeping range.

Well, she is tiny, far from elf-like (one of her recent parts was a teenage interpretation of Humpty Dumpty, and she is, to be frank, very small and round, and what is more her eyes are circular and so is her face). But she seems to me to be buoyant in her profession. She indubitably is Irish/Welsh and she knew precisely for whom she was writing this, her first full length work.

Since she sees herself as an actress as an

interpreter between the author of the script and the audience, it is not surprising that her book puts her in much the same role. She often plays parts much younger than her real years—*Goodnight Mister Tom* is for and about much younger people—and she insists that it is imaginative, rather than autobiographical.

She lived a comfortable if peripatetic life as the oldest (she is 33) of four children born in a "very respectable, tea-on-the-table" mother and a naval father from the Irish labouring class and was educated in a convent.

William, the little boy in her story, brought up in a nasty home in the East End of London and is evacuated to "Candleford" to the care of an elderly single male. The terrified boy and creaky pensioner discover each other's loneliness while daffodils and lambs heal the urban sores. The decrepit Bible-thumping mother (Miss Magorian is a lapsed Catholic) summons the boy home and nearly kills him.

There are the added horrors of a new-born illegitimate baby hidden in a drawer and given to the brutalized little boy to nurse. The baby dies, authority is cruel to be kind. After the arrival of the elderly man plus faithful dog, the child returns to the arms of nature, healing wounds of the great soft overwhelming wings of love. The end is ambivalent, as all good ends should be—you make of it what you will.

The message is clear: love and courage and good can still win. Miss Magorian insists that her adult characters are not just black and white, but are, as we all are, mixtures, which modern children accept.

The teenager who read it for me thought it was a marvellous book, exciting and real—"Of course she put tape over the baby's mouth to stop it crying"—totally comprehensible, not patronising. She loved the country allusions, which are now strong in herself.

I was saddened that 40 years on the lessons to society of the maltreatment of children seem to have made so little progress, and hope that the lesson of love and individual care above state welfare will strike a chord in the next generation. Perhaps they will.

Kestrel Books, £5.50

Escaping the duplicity of words

There is something very un-English about mime, that ritualized self-parody of exaggerated movements, as if too embarrassing for northern tastes. At least, that was true until a few years ago when teachers or performers of mime were deemed to be ragged audiences and draughty halls and none of the adulation they were used to receiving in Europe and America.

Then in 1978 an American mime performer called Adam Darius, who had studied under Russian émigré teachers, written several books on the subject, taken his act, like Peter Brook, across the Third World, and performed before Emperor Bokassa, settled on London as the place to found a school of mime. His hunch, has proved right: today there is fierce competition for a place on the gruelling course, £400 fee and a 9.30-6.30 day. The venture was made possible by Adam Darius's partner, Maria Phillips, a blonde and graceful girl, herself of Russian ancestry, who started the school on private money and now makes it pay.

It is not mime as we know it. Rather, a day-long session of limbering up, with classes in acting, jazz, make up and commedia dell'arte to give the students a kind of physical fluidity and loss of self. Though he preaches the classic forms of mime,



Maria Phillips and Adam Darius: a gruelling course.

Adam Darius talks of them with some scorn. "Illusionary mime", he says, "is visual ventriloquism, a form of theatrical deceit. Indian mime is purely depictational".

His own style, he says, can be thought of as method miming, "organic emotions expressed from within" thereby "freeing the psyche while controlling the physique." Certainly, it is fine to

watch an extraordinarily controlled and rhythmic display, no movement that does not flow from the one that preceded it, neither quite dance, nor theatre, nor acrobatics.

Few of the students have done anything of the kind before. They are all over 17 and come out of a desire, says Adam Darius, to escape the duplicity and deceptiveness of words. Increasingly, too,

they seem to come because as actors, teachers, opera singers they have started to feel the need for the kind of total expressiveness allied to ferocious discipline over their bodies that only this punishing routine can give.

It is not an easy life. To miss a class by being late is to be barred from Adam Darius's own mime session—there are 10 teachers in all—and to miss too many of those is to forfeit the final certificate.

During their three months the students have to prepare a solo performance for graduation. Adam Darius, a feathery man seemingly made of rubber, is a punctilious and exigent teacher.

The Mime Centre gets by the lofty name of Academy. If it looks seedy—a church hall in Kenilworth Town strung about with posters about boy scouts' forthcoming events, the students elegantly inelegant in ragged T-shirts and wool dancers' socks—the school none the less has a purposeful air of something that is really working.

Whether or not, as he suggests, the centre is actually pioneering a new art form, Adam Darius may be right in his hunch that the English are finally ready for such things.

Caroline Moorehead

And so to supper

The Times Cook



Shona Crawford Poole

Looking up words is a compulsive born of proper caution about making avoidable mistakes which are downright humiliating. It tends to be time-consuming too, because with a decent dictionary there is so much else to read in the adjoining columns and no telling when an unlikely Scrabble or crossword winner will turn up.

It was thus I learned that supper is not only a meal but also a verb meaning to provide with or entertain at supper. That it covers giving the last meal of the day to horses or cattle as well we will, for the present, pass over.

To supper one's friends after the theatre or some other diversion is a delightful way of rounding off a pleasant evening. And if home is not too far, even more enjoyable round your own table than in a restaurant popular enough to enjoy a late night rush.

Suppers of this kind are, ideally, light and simply prepared—not much more than posh snacks really. Champagne cocktails made with Pimm's and nothing too distinguished in the way of wine

are just the reviver to sharpen up appetites and give the cook 15 minutes in which to perform a modest miracle.

Assuming that a certain amount of preparation is possible earlier in the day, or the previous evening, a number of possibilities present themselves. A luxurious quiche with asparagus or smoked salmon does not take long to heat up, and served with green salad, which should be well varied and well dressed, can be relied upon not to give anyone nightmares. Soup followed by cold meats (served at room temperature not straight from the fridge), with new or sauté potatoes and a tomato salad, is another fuss-free choice. Smoked trout or a fish mousse followed by creamy herb omelettes, or a soufflé (prepared in advance up to the point of beating the egg whites) are more ambitious.

Small fillet steaks with a green pepperonnet and herb sauce are even grander. With this dish I would offer fresh fruit or a pudding in preference to a first course, and suggest a moist orange almond cake.

Of the dozens of versions of steak au poivre, this is my favourite. Whether the steaks are small or thick, you should be able to fit all six into one decent sized frying or sauté pan.

Steak au poivre
Serves six
6 fillet steaks
4 tablespoons green peppercorns
1 teaspoon dried thyme
1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary
1/2 teaspoon dried tarragon
1/2 teaspoon salt

1 tablespoon moutarde de Meaux
2 tablespoons peanut oil
30 g (1 oz) butter
1 tablespoon mild French mustard
4 tablespoons cognac
300 ml (1/2 pint) single cream

Trim the steaks and put them dry. Mix together the green peppercorns, thyme, rosemary, tarragon, salt and moutarde de Meaux. Spread the mixture on both sides of the steaks.

Heat the oil in a heavy frying or sauté pan and when it is hot, add the butter which should melt and froth quickly. Before the butter starts to burn, add the steaks, and as soon as the first side is sealed, turn down the heat and cook them as quickly and evenly as you can, turning them over when they are half done. There is no substitute for judgment here as the time they take to cook will depend on the thickness of the meat and how well done you like it.

A chef will test meat by pressing it with his fingers—like choosing a Camembert. It is a skill that takes practice to develop. Failing such expertise, the only alternative is to jab one of the steaks with a pointed knife and see how it is doing.

When the steaks are very nearly as cooked as required, sprinkle them with the brandy and ignite it immediately. As soon as the flames have died down, remove the steaks to a heated serving dish. Stir the mild mustard into the pan juices followed immediately by the cream. Stir the mixture thoroughly and let it boil until reduced by about a quarter. Check the

seasoning and pour it over the steaks.

Serve the steaks immediately with new potatoes, or the best green salad you can muster at this time of year, and hot French bread.

Orange Almond Cake
Serves six to eight
3 juicy oranges
55g (2 oz) fresh white breadcrumbs
110 g (4 oz) ground almonds
110 g (4 oz) caster sugar
4 large eggs, separated
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon orange flower water

Finely grate the zest of one of the oranges and squeeze the juice from all three. Combine the breadcrumbs, ground almonds, and orange zest and stir in the orange juice.

In another bowl combine the sugar, egg yolks and salt. Beat the mixture until it is light and fluffy, then fold it into the first mixture.

Whisk the egg whites until they hold a firm peak and fold them into the cake mixture. Pour the mixture into a shallow loose-bottomed 25 cm (10 inch) cake tin which has been well buttered and dusted with breadcrumbs. Bake the cake in a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for about 50 minutes.

Allow the cake to cool in its tin for about 10 minutes before turning it on to a wire rack. To serve, dust the cake with sifted icing sugar, or with a thick layer of whipped cream which may be plain, sweetened, or flavoured with an orange liqueur.

Voting will take place tomorrow (Thursday) on the Agriculture Committee's proposals.

THE ARTS

Incomparable festival of theatrical skills

Louisville, Kentucky

Last month the sewers of Louisville went up in a huge explosion that brought manhole covers raining down through roofs and ceilings, and devastated some five square miles of road. Happily, the Actors' Theatre escaped unscathed, but, had it slid into the carcombs, it is an even bet that the company would have taken this act of God (or leak of hexane) in their stride and opened the night's show dead on time.

This incomparable organization has just staged its fifth annual season of new American plays: eight productions over three days, heavily supported by local businesses and by the theatre's 18,000 subscribers, and attended by visiting artists, agents, festival planners and critics from more than 30 countries. Of course, the plays are a count. But they were important not only for themselves but as a pretext for celebrating the whole ATL operation: a crack design and stage-management team, a thrilling group of young actors, an administration that never forgets a face or an interview date—all collaborating in the grand exercise that annually reassembles an international theatre community on the desolate, bulldozed bank of the Ohio river.

For this event, that devolved word "festival" returns to hard currency. Preceding the present conservation boom, ATL is housed in an old Greek Revival bank, its domed lobby leading either upstairs to the Victor Jory Studio or through the manager's office door to the Pamela Brown Theatre. For both the studio and the main auditorium, Paul Owen has designed a basic set for speedy changeover from play to play, and the writer's demands—whether these involve transforming a living room into the ocean bed with a diver drifting down from above, or staging simultaneous action between a bar and a moonlit tree high up in the Smoky Mountains.

That said, the blunt fact is that only one satisfactorily articulated full-length play emerged from the three days. Otherwise, there were plays that lost direction in mid-course, plays that indulged in quagmires of personal reminiscence (it is always a danger signal on the American stage when some character starts telling you about his childhood), and impenetrably ill-plotted exercises in hilariously mysticism whose main exponent, the patriarchally bearded Ken Jenkins, sometimes appeared to be running an Appalachian counter-attraction to the main event along the lines of what one of his characters calls a "folk art festival and goat roast".

That succulent line comes from a one-act play on the hazards of interstate highway trading for which Mr Jenkins gets my vote. Likewise a sizable proportion of the festival's



Kathy Bates (left) and Susan Kingsley in *Chocolate Cake*

other short pieces. What Jon Jory, the director of ATL, has done this year is to take a stand against the tyranny of the full-length play, and to build his programme around a series of plays, no more than 30 minutes, or 10 minutes. In this department there was some brilliant work, split between two programmes, *Early Days* (brevities on childhood, college life and Vietnam) and *Shorts* (three more extended pieces including Mr Jenkins with his refrigerator stuffed with unmarketable bullfrog cutlets).

The best of the bunch was Mary Gallagher's *Chocolate Cake*, a nocturnal meeting between two food-obsessed ladies, one a secret-eating slob, the other a smartly tailored secret vomiter, in an isolated motel, with nothing between them and the empty night hours but a hidden cake in the cupboard. The whole action springs from the question of whether Joellea, the jealous owner, will take pity on the desperate Della and cut her a slice. Before she does, the play takes us through stages of marital despair, rural versus city desolation from the viewpoint of the two food fanatics ("I've been known to cut a cheesecake with my car keys in midtown traffic"), so as to show the development of a slither of apparent opposites. Their contact is stretched to the limit by Kathy Bates and the wonderful, nervy Susan Kingsley, memorably seen scooping up a Chinese dinner with a motel spatula and teasing fork.

By far the slowest piece on view in Louisville was William Masson's *Extremities*, a

rape play that does more than justice to the brutality of its subject. The opening is pure nightmare. Early morning in a New Jersey farmhouse. A pretty girl puts down her coffee to go out and deal with a wasp, leaving the door open. A man walks in, knowing she is alone, and slams her into submission on the floor. At which point she grabs the wasp spray and fires it into his eyes, and the play goes into reverse. The first 20 minutes arouse your maximum detestation for the rapist, which the remainder of the piece then tests to the limit. The girl ropes him up with a baker round his neck, chains him into the fireplace, beats him, tortures him with lighted matches, and douses him with paraffin ready to be burnt alive and buried in the garden. When her two friends return from work, she has a castrated case for killing. As there is no mark on her body, a court may acquit her attacker; even if he is jailed, she will always go in dread of his vengeful return.

The logic is unanswerable, but we are still only halfway through the play, and instead of letting his heroine get on with the job Mr Masson allows the party to sit around debating what to do next. When this happens the play also sits down. This author can dramatize hatred like nobody's business, and he has a nice line in mordant anti-climax ("What a day!" exclaims the first girlfriend returning with an armful of shopping). But once he allows the frenzied energy of the first act to subside into schematized debate between the heroine and her waterworks-ing and formerly raped com-

panions, the play never gets back on course. What never slackens is the authority of Ellen Barber who plays the violated heroine with unappealing Olympian fury: when actress and text are working together, the play is superb. The completely achieved exception among the full-length plays is Wendy Kesselman's *My Sister in this House*, a no less horrifying piece which works through violently expressed feelings rather than violent overkill. Its subject is the same French provincial murder case of the early 1930s which Genet took as his starting point for *The Maids*. Miss Kesselman's play is about what Genet left out, and you could practically insert a performance of *The Maids* into the blackouts of *My Sister*.

The basic story is one of harsh domestic exploitation rebounding on the culprit's head. Mme Danard engages the two sisters as servants, and works them almost to death; they then kill her and her daughter with the greatest brutality. As Miss Kesselman tells it, this is a story of puns. Just as the girls were ill-used by their master, so the young mistress Isabelle Danard has her blood sucked by the monstrous Madame. There is also a code of behaviour, observed with fierce pride by mistress and servants alike. Both sides agree that the work must be done to perfection, and that there can be no human contact between them. Madame in the drawing room and Christine (the elder sister) in the kitchen speak of each other in identical terms:

"I've never had anyone like her before." "I trust her with everything." It is acceptable for the employer to inflict physical punishment on the servants. But when she transgresses the code by speaking to them, and attempting to violate their private relationship, then Christine's hand seizes a pewter vase and the mistress's and daughter's brains spatter the floor.

In Jon Jory's production one is long prepared for this by the sight, and the sound, of Christine at the chopping block, preparing each night's delicacies with a sophisticated arsenal of flesh-carving instruments. There are some precarious passages in the text (particularly in the underdeveloped mother-daughter relationship), but the production offers a complete and beautifully composed image of a way of life. Sound is wonderfully used: the counterpoint of kitchen knives against dining room cutlery, with a clock heavily ticking the girls' youth away. So, too, are the sisters' movements, their frustrations and passions, expressed through mumbled curses, murderous polishing and floor scrubbing; and their voluptuous relaxation into a world of masquerade, finery and satin, when they enter their room and turn out the light. The sibling performances of Patricia Charbonneau, and Christine Rose—her features set stonily above a goose-like neck marked for slaughter from first sight—stamp themselves permanently on the memory in a production that seems to belong more to the great Continental tradition than to anything American.

Irving Wardle

Opera

Oedipus Rex

Grand Theatre, Leeds

Paul Griffiths

Stravinsky's opera-oratorio *Oedipus Rex* is a work like no other, a ritual spectacle designed to be presented by masked performers as living statues, singing in Latin while a narrator introduces the action in the language of the audience. It is a difficult piece to bring off in the theatre, but many of its readers have been solved with Oedipal nearness in a new production unveiled by English National Opera North on Tuesday.

Taking a cue from the Cox-Hockney *Rake's Progress* for Glyndebourne, the producer, Patrick Libby, and designer, Stefanos Lazaridis, range the chorus and principals in a honeycomb of cubicles stretching vertically to cover almost the whole stage opening. The participants thus appear to have dread witnesses in some eldritch court, their faces plague-ridden and white; white with the chalk-white of death, which is one of the main colours of the production; the others being only black and blood-red to underline the barbaric impression of an antiquity bound by curse and taboo. Stark lighting by David C. Jackson pins the inhabitants in their boxes with beams that glare through the curling smoke, and the image that is Creon, a South Sea Island rotem in skull mask and feathers, gives the production its terrible presiding deity.

Mr Libby and Mr Lazaridis are surely right to remind us that *Oedipus Rex* has very little to do with light and sunlight and Doric temples. Indeed, its potent, grim stage picture is exactly in accord with an orchestral performance under David Lloyd Jones that puts the emphasis on the savage brutality of the wind. Unfortunately, the chorus lacks the same attack, which means that the



Robert Ferguson as Oedipus

piece gets off to a weak start, though it is quickly rescued by the commanding person of Barry Stanton as the narrator. To make him Oedipus's double, however, is clever but ultimately confusing. The real Oedipus is Robert Ferguson, a figure of strength and pride, but unhappy in his vocal insecurity and wobble. Josephine Veasey properly takes the opportunity of Jocasta's aria to repeat the voluptuousness and tenderness of her Verdi impersonations, and there

is strong singing from Hugh-Nigel Sheehan, doubling Creon and the Messenger.

John Trauter is the solemn Tiresias, whose further history is only obliquely the subject matter of the companion piece, Poulenc's *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*. The company's much-acclaimed production is revived still bright and bouncing, with a delicious account of the score under Clive Timmins and a cast led by Kate Flowers and Stuart Harling. Everyone has a marvellous time.

Manon Lescaut

Logan Hall

Hilary Finch

The sporadic laughter of a crowd, a jewel robbery, frenzied escape and capture, and slow death by thirst in the desert may not seem at first the ideal stuff of which concert performances of operas are made. And there was, unavoidably, more than a little culture shock on Tuesday at the beginning of the Chelsea Opera's presentation of the one-lollipop among the less well-known confessions of this year's Camden Festival.

Yet in many ways, and if only because it gives us a chance to focus our ears on the orchestral craftsmanship of Puccini's score, *Manon Lescaut* is not ill-suited to the purpose: there

is, for example, the little concert within the concert in Act 2, the evocative Intermezzo, and the pervasive odour of Crisante. Here and, indeed, throughout, the orchestra generally persuaded us of the case; they were willing to take risks for the sake of excitement, and in their more finely wrought passages, some under the baton of Howard Williams' deft tailoring.

Despite Tuesday night's powerfully controlled ensemble, the solo voices here must be the prime movers, and their already strenuous task becomes even harder without the dramatic and physical regeneration and reinforcement of a staged performance. It was partly for that reason, surely, that Manon and Des Grieux excelled themselves only in the last act, despite its long drawn-out agony,

as if they were at last able to fuse the musical and emotional experience.

Earlier Janice Cairns as Manon, fresh, pure-toned and a little too guileless vocally, had played the vulnerable young girl almost at the expense of that volatile woman, and her voice, like that of Lancaster Roberts as Des Grieux, lacked strength and sustaining power at the top. Neither had fully mastered the powerful ebb and flow of Puccini's line enough to glory in its turns of phrase or to approach climaxes with a vital slancio.

Tom McDonnell gave a powerful and idiomatic performance as a particularly virile, curl-lipped Geronte, Laurence Dale injected some sharp drama into his Edmondo and Simon Bainbridge's Lampichter shot a clear ray of vocal light into the opening gloom of the penultimate act.

Buddy Rich

Ronnie Scott's

Richard Williams

At its most confined and stylized, big band jazz seems to answer a particular aesthetic craving among its audience for order of system. In the music of Buddy Rich and his 15-piece orchestra, for example, there is no room whatsoever for the spontaneous gesture or the happy accident; the main attraction seems to be the sound and vision of the leader, a small but ferocious figure, almost literally whipping his cowed musicians through a series of exhausting calisthenics.

It might be argued that such exercises have more to do with the parade ground than with jazz. During Tuesday night's first set, Rich paid honest tribute to Count Basie and, by implication, Lester Young in an account of "One O'Clock Jump": what place, however, could be found in Rich's ensemble for a wayward genius of Young's dimension?

Technically speaking, Rich is certainly one of the world's greatest drummers. His fills are elaborate but logical, his punctuation brook no argument, and his solos contain stunning examples of the art of cross-sticking. What he lacks is any degree of emotional warmth, and although this seems to impress his fans, it scarcely works to the benefit of his soloists.

The best of them, the fine runner-up, Waymon Reed whose 46th and 8th was one of last year's most distinguished mainstream jazz albums, found himself positively trampled towards the end of one solo, when Rich began his tom-tom rudiments about eight bars from home; there, like Steve Marcus, the dependable tenor saxophonist, and Andy Fusco, an alto saxophonist whose small tone and sour intonation suggested that he was raised on a diet of early Jackie McLean records, were hardly given time to clear their throats before being engulfed by the ensemble. Instead Rich presented Zoo, a group of three young women, including his daughter, who sang adequate supper-club versions of the Dobbie Brothers' "What a Fool Believes" and "Got to Get into My Life", the latter a brittle arrangement evoked by Earth, Wind and Fire.

It could be said that Rich's odes, liberally sprinkled between the tunes, are more outrageous than his music. While introducing the band, he created the bass trombonist and re baritone saxophonist, who adjoined to arrive on a bandstand until the third number. "Leave them alone," raved a compassionate ring-leader. "Sure, I'll leave 'em alone." Rich spat. "In a cell." A second thought, perhaps that one was not a joke at all.



The dwindling violins (foreground) of the NCOS, George Hurst conducting

Arts agenda

Shortage of orchestral strings

A tip for aspiring musicians: if you want a secure professional career, take up the violin. There is a national shortage of good orchestral violinists, says Basil Tschakow, director of the National Centre for Orchestral Studies, who is having great difficulty in attracting sufficient violinists for next year's course at the centre. They have received about two dozen applications for the three places on the flute for the violin, they have actually received fewer applications than there are places (26) available.

Tschakow says the flute is easily the most popular instrument—a situation only just reversed by the impact of the Galway, where there is also no shortage of cellists, clarinetists or trumpet players. The violin is a different matter: in both its first two years, the centre had been unable to fill all the violin places. He says the professional orchestras have long had difficulties in finding enough first-rate players; when he was chairman of the Philharmonic Orchestra they might audition 60 violinists in a year, and would be lucky to gain two or three good recruits.

He believes the trouble stems partly from the difficulty in learning the instrument, and also from teaching which emphasizes the solo and sonata repertoire, although few first-rate players when he was chairman of the Philharmonic Orchestra they might audition 60 violinists in a year, and would be lucky to gain two or three good recruits.

next week, but, for violinists, Tschakow is keeping the list open "indefinitely".

What is virtually a small repertory company is being created by Triumph Theatre Productions for a tour which starts next week at Nottingham and continues round Britain until at least December, presenting four productions in all. A shorter tour was mounted by Triumph last year, with Arts Council support, but this year it has been greatly extended, partly to fill the gap left by the withdrawal of the council's grant for touring by the Old Vic company, which is being replaced by the new company, led by Anthony Quayle, Bernard Bresslaw, John McCallum, Mel Martin and Goggin Withers, and opens at the Nottingham Playhouse next Thursday with Galsworthy's *The Skin Game*, directed by Clifford Williams. *The Devil's Disciple*, directed by Richard Digby Day, follows later in April. Both plays will be performed at the Malvern Festival and then the company travels to Richmond, where it will open with *The Cherry Orchard*. Later in the tour Quayle will direct Pinter's *Daddy Dick*.

Although some of Philip Larkin's poems have been made into songs, next month will see the premiere of the first piece he has written specifically for setting to music: a choral work, with music by Anthony Hedges, which will be performed by the Hull Choral Union on April 11. Larkin, who is the librarian at the University of Hull, was commissioned to do the work to celebrate Hull's latest cause for civic pride: the opening of the Humber Bridge. He actually wrote the verses about five years ago, but the pre-

miere has been delayed because the completion of the bridge fell far behind schedule.

It is not quite a poem of praise: six of the 10 verses are devoted to saying how nice it was before the bridge was built—being alone and not being able to be got at by people from London? Moreover, he does not see himself using the bridge in the new future, although he likes looking at it.

The title of the piece, *Bridge for the Living*, grew out of the last line: "Always it is by bridges that we live"—a double meaning reflecting Larkin's concern about bridges built between human beings. There is, however, an unintentional third meaning: Larkin points out that *Bridge for the Living* sounds like the title of something about card games.

Among the works pouring from the pen of Peter Maxwell Davies, a little choral piece holds a special place: it marks the birth of a farmer's daughter, Lucy, in the tiny village of Rackwick on the island of Hoy, where he now lives. He says it was the first birth in the village for 32 years, a "tremendous event" for the island community. Genadi Rozdestvensky will conduct the premiere in June at the St Magnus Festival on Orkney.

Not to be missed: Claudio Abbado and the LSO celebrate the centenary of Mussorgsky's death with a Festival Hall concert next Tuesday, which includes a variety of rarities as well as the original version of *A Night on the Bare Mountain*, Pictures from an Exhibition and Nicolai Gligorov singing the *Songs and Dances of Death*.

Martin Huckerby

True comedy on a touchy subject

Having a Ball!
Coliseum, Oldham

Ned Chaillet

Regional theatres and their governing boards are notoriously timid. They always want audiences, but they seldom want the shows that will make audiences enthusiastic. The Oldham Coliseum is a rare exception, and perhaps one should credit the Lancashire spirit more than any individual, but Kenneth Alan Taylor's policy as the company's director has done wonders for serious theatre outside London.

Having a Ball! is an uproarious comedy about the tedious subject (to say the least) of vasectomy. In the North they trust Alan Bleasdale to turn out good comedies with regularity. So far his work has largely been denied to the southern regions, except the best, publically shamed, since *Having a Ball!* is one of the plays scheduled for Radio 3's new play festival, all of

England will soon be getting a taste of his masterful stage work.

He sets his story in a private clinic in Manchester. Four of the characters are shortly to be rolled into the operating room for that intimate masculine soap, and the surgeon is a woman. For lesser writers, that would be enough to be going on, but Mr Bleasdale fits in the dangers of nuclear war, the morality of abortion, and the decline of school bullies into glad-handing insurance salesmen.

Kenneth Alan Taylor's production is unrestrained in its exploitation of the comedy, but even with one ramping, naked and even obnoxious patient it finds a decorum totally suited to both the occasion and the theatre audience. It is the best, publically shamed, and three times shy of operation, who retains the frantic focus of the story, talking to himself, taunting the school bully from 16 years before and inspiring the drunken wife of another patient to a life-affirming declaration of desire.

Before Water Lilies

BBC 1

Joan Bakewell

To all those who have ever possessed their way round a private view, Beechwood's ninth or made holiday plans during a boring third act, *Play for Today* can be humbly dedicated. It is in fact a very humble little play, masquerading under a good deal of cultural flannel.

Robert Marshall, the author, has set it in New York's Gallery of Modern Art in the room displaying Monet's *Water Lilies*. It is to this neutral

territory that various pairs of talkative Americans come to play out various combinations of the blame game with each other.

Thus Mel and Tony, fellow executives, come on flight from the seafood luncheon of their company to call each other names and realize together that they are about to be scapegoats for the financial chicanery of their superiors.

Monet? He counts with Tony as a familiar friend "like a college reunion". To Mel it's just "a big mess of blue".

Next and least successful as a pair come Angie and Marcia, collecting culture on their coast tour, and religious groupies for "the Mysterious Hope". The

writing was weak enough and weak playing lowered it further. Monet just did not figure.

So things looked up when their kooky art student guide stayed behind to exercise her aggression all over a charming gangster of an English law student. Andrew Boxer saw this part, and the play most truly outlining an amiable caricature in what was really a sequence of revue double acts. Monet? It served to make her horny.

So where did it leave us? A handful of passing encounters merely, an unexciting gallery of modern stereotypes. Poor Monet was used to serve or distort each man's quarrel with himself.

All this is performed in expressionless silence. I wondered whether the addition of a sound dimension, other than the contact of limbs and bodies with the floor, might add to its character for the viewer, for I confess its interest as a spectator sport, and the play most truly came some time before its evident appeal to the participants, as if we were watching an exercise in vocabulary as a preliminary to composition.

Yet it has to be admitted that in the shorter works collectively titled *Missing in Action*, where each presumably had a set context or structure, the movement ranged from the self-indulgent to the banal, with little help from accompanying sounds. An exception was Nancy Stark Smith's solo, *In Ketjak*, where her movement's visual rhythm counterpointed the sound of Balinese vocal chants,

RSC to do La Ronde

The Royal Shakespeare Company is to present Arthur Schnitzler's play *La Ronde* in London next January, in a production by John Barton with a cast including Susan Fleetwood, Richard Pasco, Judy Buxton, Michael Pennington, Barbara Leigh-Hunt and Carol Royle.

Mike Leigh's new play *Goose-Pimples* will transfer from the Hampstead Theatre to the Garrick Theatre, opening in the West End on April 29.

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LONDON

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Profits from future races to help inner city areas

By Paul Harrison

A budget of £150,000 for the first year of the London Marathon, set to be held on Sunday, is a break from the usual pattern of a race which is a loss for the London Marathon Trust, but it is a necessary step to ensure the race's future.

The London Marathon Trust, which has been established to run the race, is a charitable trust. It is the first time that the race has been run by a charitable trust. The trust is a limited liability company, and its profits will be used to help inner city areas.

Christopher Brasher, the race director, says that the race is a success for the London Marathon Trust, but it is a loss for the London Marathon Trust. He says that the race is a success for the London Marathon Trust, but it is a loss for the London Marathon Trust.

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Place in finals not out of N. Ireland's reach

By Stuart Jones

Scotland 1 Northern Ireland 1

It was wet, it was windy and it was a far from ideal day for the first round of the World Cup. The rain was a nuisance for the players, but it was a help for the spectators.

The match was a close one, with both teams showing their best. Scotland took the lead in the first half, but Northern Ireland equalised in the second half.

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Scotland's victory was a surprise, but it was a well-deserved one. The team played well, and they deserved the win.

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Harris goal keeps Wales on course

Turkey 0 Wales 1

Ankara, March 25.—Carl Harris, the Leeds United winger, today put Wales a step nearer the World Cup finals in Spain next year.

The match was a close one, with both teams showing their best. Harris scored the winning goal in the first half.

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The winning goal, which came in the first half, was a well-deserved one. Harris played well, and he deserved the win.

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England out of sorts and out of luck

By Norman Fox

England's latest concoction, on paper an agreeable blend of known successes and young hopes, failed to make a persuasive case for the appearance of the team in the World Cup.

The match was a close one, with both teams showing their best. England took the lead in the first half, but Spain equalised in the second half.

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Robson, one of England's better players, fails to score with this fierce shot.

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Eire bemoan late goal and a controversial decision

Belgium 1 Rep Ireland 0

Brussels, March 25.—An eighth minute goal from Jan Ceulemans, the Belgian forward, put Belgium ahead of the Republic of Ireland in the World Cup.

The match was a close one, with both teams showing their best. Belgium took the lead in the first half, and they maintained their lead throughout the match.

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League have no objections to QPR pitch plan

The Football League

The Football League has no objections to the plan to build a new stadium for Queens Park Rangers (QPR) at the Loftus Road ground.

The plan is to build a new stadium with a capacity of 25,000. The new stadium will be built on the site of the current stadium, and it will be completed in 1983.

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Such an outcome is unprecedented in the history of opinion polls in this country. Even more encouraging support for the Social Democrats comes from both sexes, all age groups and all income groups in approximate proportion to their share of the British population.

Unlike support for the Conservative party, SD support is not nearly three times higher among professional, administrative and managerial groups than among semi-skilled or unskilled workers. Equally however, SD support is not disproportionately concentrated among these sectors, as Labour support is. For a party committed to breaking the mould of class politics, we have exactly the needed base we need.

Furthermore, Social Democratic supporters, if recent polls on attitudes to policy are correct, are consistently more liberal on law and order and on capital punishment, more generous on financial aid to the underdeveloped countries, more fair-minded towards ethnic minorities than those of any other political group, while being strongly committed to a

What is being attempted today is a gamble of course. But if that gamble is not attempted, failure for the Labour Party is a foregone conclusion. It is to drift into extremism with the intention of grasping the real issues of one member one vote, of selection and entrism, of the move to impose party discipline on elected representatives that would be to risk the destruction of parliamentary democracy. To cling tenaciously to the harsh and mutually contradictory doctrines of the Government is to risk the destruction of much of British industry and to tear our divided but so far orderly society apart.

The hunger of many people for a new political beginning is evident in the thousands of letters we Social Democrats have received. The writers of these letters are crying out against tyranny, against the devotion of individuals to party and to representative democracy is moving, and is expressed in letters from all parts of the country.

They are worried about the present and projected future levels of unemployment. They are fed up with the political system that makes each government reject even what was achieved in its predecessor's achievements; they despair of the willingness of the two big parties to accept the present system as a lasting and sensible compromise. Above all they fear for Britain, and wonder whether she has a future. What they ask, is to have a new political beginning. There never was a better moment to make a new beginning than now.

Bernard Levin

employment will lead to increased violence and crime, and that more people will therefore buy dogs for protection. Not only that, the human population in general is getting colder and lonelier, and presumably will not find the warm meaningful relationships craves with goldfish or masters.

To learn from a separate analysis of the petfood industry issued yesterday that what they "canned dog" sales were 15 per cent by value in last year and sales of "canned cat" by a quarter, it seems monstrous a supposedly animal-loving nation should spend almost a year on these bestial ducts.

It's bother to see Naples and see Eastbourne and Di in. The Cremation Society is monthly journal is advisers in July: the royal dining and the society's annual conference at Eastbourne. "If you are coming overseas" it suggests, "do not attend both?"

Mirror image?

After my recent speculation that changes in the ownership of Fleet Street had increased the need for a national daily newspaper on the left, probably with broad support from the ailing *Morning Star*, I am glad to report that the trade union movement has been making some positive moves in that very direction.

The TUC has appointed Lord McCarron, a fellow of Nuffield College and a lecturer in industrial relations, to head its £40,000 feasibility study into the launching of a Labour daily. Helping him will be David Gifford, a TUC executive at *The Guardian*, Geoffrey Goodman, industrial editor of the *Daily Mirror*, and two retired *Mirror* executives, Percy Roberts and William McClelland.

Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, would like to see the project off the ground and on Fleet Street by the end of or early next year. He wants the paper to be "independent and objective" rather than have a blatantly left-wing label tied to its masthead. But it is

trade unionists are not enamoured of the way their thoughts and actions are reported by the established media, although I am sure *The Times* is an honourable exception.

It is much too early to say what shape the paper will take; estimates of possible circulation being mooted in the TUC vary from 250,000 to six million, and Murray will not commit himself beyond guessing that its style will be somewhere between *The Times* and *The Sun*. Judging by the advisers that have been hired, I shall not be surprised if it bears at least a passing resemblance to the *Daily Mirror*.

Best-fed friend

There are still some bright spots in the country's moribund industrial scene. James Morrell, director of the Henley Centre for Forecasting (economic, not weather) was able to tell an assembly of pet food manufacturers this week that their sales would hold up well in 1981, and that long-term prospects were rosy.

You might not immediately guess his reasoning. Morrell

unemployment will lead to increased violence and crime, and that more people will therefore buy dogs for protection. Not only that, the human population in general is getting older and lonelier, and presumably will not find the warm and meaningful relationships it craves with goldfish or hamsters.

I learn from a separate analysis of the petfood industry issued yesterday that what they call "canned dog" sales were up 15 per cent by value in Britain last year and sales of so-called "canned cat" by a quarter. It seems monstrous that a supposedly animal-loving nation should spend almost £400m a year on these bestial products.

Don't bother to see Naples and die; see Eastbourne and Di instead. The Cremation Society in its monthly journal is advising members of two important events in July: the royal wedding and the society's annual conference at Eastbourne. "If you are coming from overseas," it suggests, "why not attend both?"

Alan Hamilton



SYMPTOMS OF A POISONED PAST

The British security services have had notable successes but they have also been the victims of regular spy scandals since the war, and each new set of allegations has increased the sense of unease that the security establishment had become deeply and pervasively undermined by traitors within its walls. Ironically, the periodic exposure of this or that traitor could just as easily have been taken as reassurance that the system was coping well with the threats against it—and indeed that its basic excellence accounted for the fact that it was so often a main target for Soviet efforts to discredit it. However, the intelligence world is by its nature a prismatic one in which simple truths are overwhelmed by double meanings; where evidence is more elusive than supposition; where reputations built up meticulously over decades are lost in a moment's carelessness.

The Prime Minister today thus has no easy task in making a statement on the Hollis affair. One could not be escaped. The series of articles in the *Daily Mail*, coming so soon after the Blunt affair, were bound to raise the deepest disquiet; and *The Times* has itself given wider ventilation to the raw material.

CONTINUING THE AGE OF THE TRAIN

The railways are a national asset but a wasting one. Not even the chirpy selling efforts of Mr Jimmy Saville travelling first class can entirely remove the burdens of obsolescence, peak loads and the schizophrenia of having to provide a public service at a time of public austerity. British Rail has now for the first time assembled the needs into a coherent whole, including widespread electrification of main lines, improved London commuter services, more economical rural railways and a Channel tunnel. The objectives are unexceptional on both consumer and energy grounds. They deserve the fullest support from Government consistent with other demands of national good housekeeping.

The cost is nearly £5,700m over the next decade compared with £1,200m (£7,200m in 1980 prices) for the last great railway modernization plan in 1956. That is a lot of money; but it has been evident for at least a decade that without a greater infusion of capital—similar to that in Europe—the railways were doomed to decline, just as they were after years of wartime and postwar investment starvation a quarter of a century ago. It

Mr Pincher has not explicitly accused Sir Roger Hollis, the former Director General of the security service, of being a Soviet agent. He has, however, described an agonizing inquest on a flawed intake which treated Sir Roger as one of its suspects. That process could also be a reassuring one, by showing that an exhaustive inquiry would not exclude even the most senior man from suspicion, particularly since in such a rigidly compartmentalized system as the security service, certain things would be known only to a few top men. However, the inclusion of the top man in a genuine inquiry such as that which seems to have been conducted both within the service and then at the feet of Lord Trend could not have been staged as a matter of form. Unless the process was merely perfunctory and decorative, Sir Roger's past must have contained something to merit investigation.

Mrs Thatcher's response to the Blunt affair was robust and refreshing, in contrast to the obfuscations handed out by her predecessors when matters of security—such as the Philby allegation—demanded parliamentary answers. Her task is more difficult today since, whereas she was able to confirm the darkest suspicions of Blunt, she now has

represents an annual rate of investment raised to £567m a year from the level presently proposed under the Government's investment ceiling of £306m and the level of £414m in British Rail's corporate plan to 1985.

It was hoped at the time that the previous modernization plan would enable British Rail to generate more of the cash needed for its own investment. There are many reasons why it did not, to do with nationalization, over-manning, and the obligations of providing a public service against unfair competition. But one reason must also be the railways' apparent inability to adapt sufficiently quickly to change. That springs partly from its nature as a high fixed capital industry, and partly from attitudes which are in other respects commendable. Railwaymen (top management as well as engine drivers) tend to be men of conservative temperament, loyal and committed to the virtues they see embodied in the railway. They really believe in the railway; and that has usually meant the railway as it is, not as it could and ought to be.

A succession of failures to achieve targets set has bred a justified caution on the part of governments about putting more public money into the railways. A reduction of nearly 40,000 in manpower proposed in this plan for the next five years is just what was proposed five years ago and has fallen woefully short. Careful step-by-step monitoring of each individual proposal will be required and of unfolding performance against it. That is something recently developed with growing sophistication in the Department of Transport and at British Rail under Sir Peter Parker. It cannot be relaxed.

What is merited now is a broad strategic "yes" to the future railway, followed pretty quickly by a tactical "yes" to the fullest programme for main-line electrification that has already been vetted and approved by a joint BR/Government working party. Electrification would pave the way for private-sector finance in central railway investment, which the proposals BR now make for further separation of the "commercial" from the "social" railway would facilitate. It is also just the kind of work producing programme, investment oriented and export encouraging (for private industry as well as British Rail), that the economy needs in its present recessionary trough.

ing repressive measures of the sort which many military men would like—and which were used in the days of the Franco regime—they will undo all the good that has been done by government policy in recent years. Moderate Basque opinion, represented by the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV), which heads the Basque regional government, would be alienated, and the hopes of finding a solution to the Basque problem through a status of autonomy within Spain would be seriously set back.

In an attempt to placate them the armed forces are to be associated with operations against terrorism. But their role is to be limited, consisting largely of control of the frontier with France, where terrorists frequently find refuge, to the indignation of the Spanish authorities. The overall command of terrorist operations will be in the hands of the Minister of the Interior, a civilian. At the same time, the Spanish Parliament is to be asked to tighten existing penal legislation, principally to enable action to be taken against people thought to be passing on information to ETA.

The first indications are that these measures will be accepted by the main parties in the Madrid Parliament. They have also received cautious support from Señor Garaikoechea, the chief

2000 is 35.5 and 89.5 per cent respectively. In Bangladesh the corresponding figures are 13 and 62.7 per cent for 1980, and 4 and 37.5 per cent for the year 2000. The data for "Democratic" Yemen are 4.9 and 76.4 per cent for 1980, and 0.7 and 7.1 per cent for 2000. Hope springs eternal.

Analogous arguments apply to rural and urban health services, with the latter vastly dominant over the former. It seems likely that the only successful basis for reducing poverty is by developing educational resources appropriate to those technologies that create wealth. As stressed in a recent Unesco document on education, this will not be achieved if the Third World merely apes the First. Yours very truly, R. A. VEALE, The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1.

Doubt about Army scheme for jobless

From The Director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, We fully share your concerns about the social and economic costs of youth unemployment (Leading article, March 25). However, the proposal to enable jobless young people to serve with the Army, which you strongly support, needs very careful consideration. On the basis of the information available, many voluntary organizations working with the young unemployed believe that there are important reasons why such a proposal should not be introduced.

First, it would appear that the Ministry of Defence is offering general military training for the majority of the thousands or so young unemployed people it would recruit rather than the chance to learn a trade. Not only would it be wrong to suggest to jobless teenagers that in joining the scheme they would be given opportunities to learn trades when most will undertake forms of military training, but a lack of relevant work experience lies in the face of the very considerable efforts that all those responsible for the special programmes for the young unemployed are making to improve the quality of those schemes.

Secondly, it is suggested that the Ministry of Defence should be wholly funded by the Manpower Services Commission (MSC). The estimated per capita cost of the scheme appears to be more than twice that of the average MSC youth opportunities programme placement. With an ever-increasing number of unemployed young people, it is right that the MSC should be expected to pay double for this very small minority of its clientele? Furthermore, this small minority would tend to exclude some of the most disadvantaged young unemployed, given that all recruits to the ministry's scheme would have to meet the Army's own selection criteria.

Thirdly, it is increasingly important that those taking part in the youth opportunities programme should be readily able to seek work and take up permanent jobs during their placements. The necessarily regimented life of the Army does not readily lend itself to such flexible arrangements.

Welsh-language television

From Mr Lionel Dunn

Sir, Professor Garmah (March 20) is misinformed about the nature of the independent television companies. Broadcasting in the Welsh language service on the fourth channel.

The particulars of the new independent television franchises were issued in January 1980, and applications were lodged with the Independent Broadcasting Authority in May. The franchises were offered on the basis of a subscription of between £70m and £80m from the companies for the new fourth channel. There was no mention of the all-Welsh channel and could not have been because the Government did not decide to adopt this policy until September.

Only in December 1980, when the new contracts were awarded, were the companies told about a subscription for the all-Welsh channel.

Professor Garmah can rest assured that no obligations towards an all-Welsh service, either moral or legal, exist. On the contrary, it could be said that the last-minute addition of financial requirements for a Welsh service disturbs the calculations on which the viability of the franchise requirements as a whole had been assessed.

It is not for the companies to take a view for or against an all-Welsh channel, only to express the belief that the additional financial burden should not be borne by them. This could be avoided, for instance, by exempting the full cost of the channel from the special tax paid to the Exchequer—the television levy.

The TV companies do have a primary public duty to provide television broadcasting in their own regions. Professor Garmah must therefore recognize that there is

University cuts

From Professor A. Fröhlich, FRSE

Sir, There is one aspect of the crisis in university finance which has not received the attention it deserves. It is the impact which the cuts, and the decisions which may follow them, could have on the future of the basic sciences in this country.

A brilliant young scientist, devoted to fundamental research and keen to teach and to stimulate others, has only one place where he can make his career—in the university sector. There is a danger that this road will be closed to him in future.

Bargaining with Civil Service pensions

From Mr John Willman

Sir, Your leader on the Civil Service pay dispute (March 25) seeks to construct a chimerical contrast between the Government and its own employees based on the continuation of index-linked pensions in return for a "no-strike" agreement.

An initial reaction is to dismiss it as much the same sort of academic and totally impracticable exercise recently put forward by Professor Meade as the basis for a new Social Democratic Party. More important, how does this air-fairy scheme tie in with your own findings of Friday, March 20, that civil servants have substantially fallen behind people doing similar jobs in outside industry? Should not your editorials reflect the facts established by your own reporters?

The main reason for writing, however, is to point out that you have totally misrepresented the findings of the Scott inquiry on index-linked pensions. Far from finding that the value of an index-linked pension is "priceless", the Scott inquiry put forward suggestions

for a means of valuing the indexing provision of the public service pensions guaranteed to almost six million workers.

But what your editorial does not say is that, far from suggesting that index-linked pensions were a privilege to be bestowed upon certain sections of the workforce, the Scott inquiry underlined the need for index-linking to be extended to all pensions. Protecting pensions from inflation should not merely be the reward for particularly loyal service to the country; it is the right thing to do to protect the living standards of those who have the least "industrial muscle" and who may be said to have contributed least to any inflationary situation.

It would be sad if the debate about index-linking of all pensions were to be swept under the carpet in an attempt to find an easy solution to the Civil Service pay dispute.

JOHN WILLMAN, Eastcroft, Luxted Road, Downe, Kent, March 25.

Payment of benefits

From The General Secretary of the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters

Sir, We also welcome, as do Age Concern and other interested national organizations, the government decision to allow pensioners to continue to collect their pensions weekly (*The Times*, March 23). A freedom of choice is certainly desirable and the federation, despite the threat to sub-postmasters' counter work, recognizes the pensioners' right to choose the direct credit to a bank account method.

Our concern on the effect which the government proposal for child benefits will have on the viability of the sub-post office network is as strong as ever. These fears are endorsed by many national organizations, including the Conservative Women's National Advisory Committee and the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations.

The danger to the sub-post office network will not be completely removed if Government modifies its present stand, thereby allowing mothers the right to choose. Continued and individual public opinion is clearly in favour of the freedom of choice. Mothers are surely in a better position to decide whether their personal circumstances would be best served by weekly, monthly or quarterly payment.

What we advocate is that the status quo of weekly payment should still apply, with the option for mothers to state a preference for monthly payment in arrears.

Yours faithfully, ALBAN MORGAN, General Secretary, National Federation of Sub-Postmasters, Evelyn House, Windesham Gardens, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, March 23.

Defence of Belize

From Mr Robert Atkins, MP for Preston, North (Conservative)

Sir, As one of a small all-party parliamentary delegation which recently visited the British Forces in Belize, perhaps I might be allowed to add a further point to the discussions about the colony's independence.

It became very clear to us that British troops are popular amongst Belizeans, chiefly of course for the security that they offer against the Guatemalan threat, but also for the leadership and assistance rendered in a variety of ways. Not least is the support for the local Belize Defence Force, particularly by way of instructors.

Biggs abduction implications

From Mr C. G. J. Morse

Sir, Your report (March 25) of the abduction of Mr Ronald Biggs in Rio de Janeiro and his subsequent transportation to Barbados raises several grave issues. At the very least the British authorities should investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident before any decision on extradition proceedings is taken.

However, if your report is accurate, it is abundantly clear that it would be wholly inappropriate for the British authorities to attempt to extradite Mr Biggs from Barbados even if they were otherwise entitled to do so. An examination of the reported conduct of Mr Biggs's abductors is likely to reveal several serious criminal offences under Brazilian law and/or English law.

For the authorities to seek to condone and indeed to take advantage of such conduct would serve only to encourage the kind of international lawlessness which the majority of the world community is seeking to eradicate.

Yours faithfully, C. G. J. MORSE, Faculty of Law, University of London, King's College, Strand, WC2, March 25.

Yorkshire's achievement

From Miss Dorothy Tutin

Sir, Having worked very happily for Yorkshire Television over a period of years, I am disturbed by the newspaper reports (March 20 in *The Times*) concerning the company.

If money cannot be found to extend the franchise it will be an artistic disaster.

The work Yorkshire Television has done in all fields has been varied and wide-ranging, and particularly in the field of drama, where new and established writers have been encouraged and commissioned, new talent found in design and acting and a standard of production and direction has been achieved over a period of 12 years which few can match.

Yours faithfully, DOROTHY TUTIN, National Theatre, South Bank, SE1, March 24.

Penny-wise in India, too

From Professor David Morley

Sir, It is not only Heads of State who have been influenced by British education (letter, March 20).

A colleague and I have just returned from Hyderabad, India, a meeting of 22 students of the Institute of Child Health, London. Of these 21 are now heads of their own departments of paediatrics. Our present policy in respect of the fees for overseas students will make such an achievement for British medicine unlikely in the future.

DAVID MORLEY, Professor of Tropical Child Health, University of London, Institute of Child Health, 30 Guilford Street, WC1.

Threat to historic view

From Mr Alec Clifton-Taylor

Sir, I had been hoping that something about the threat to Beverley Minster, and now (March 23) Lord Kynner has done so. May I add my strong support?

I am one of those who has already written to Mr Heseline on this subject. Beverley Minster is a finer church than many of our cathedrals, and the prospect from the south, which will soon figure in a television programme on the town, is one of the most precious church views in England. That this piece of land should be wilfully built over, when there are plenty of other vacant sites in the vicinity, seems

Worlds apart

From Dr B. Wakefield

Sir, Mr Richard Law (March 19) may have heard of Galileo, but he does not appear to have heard of Einstein, or else he would know that it is not possible for two galaxies to move apart with a relative velocity of 14 times the velocity of light, even though both may be receding from us in opposite directions with velocities of five-eighths the velocity of light relative to us.

Because clocks on a receding galaxy run slower than ours, an observer on one galaxy would judge that the other is receding from him at only about nine-tenths the velocity of light.

Yours faithfully, B. WAKEFIELD, 1 St Peter's Close, Charchfield, Wrotham, Suffolk, March 20.

Telecom English

From Mr Harold Glover

Sir, I have recently received—from Cambridge, of all places—my domestic telephone account.

It quotes the meter readings for the beginning and end of the quarter and shows the difference between them in a column headed "Usage".

Oh Buzby! Oh Partridge! Oh Plover!

Yours faithfully, H. GLOVER, Plover Club, Pall Mall, SW1, March 23.

Matters of interest

From Dr J. M. Finniss

Sir, Why does Mr Gerard Noel (March 18) so travestise the history of the church whose name his newspaper proclaims?

Benedict XVI did not declare it sinful "to reclaim anything but the exact amount of a loan". The very

sentence in which he defused usury has no less than three qualifications overlooked by Mr Noel. And within the next four sentences that Pope not only identified two specific sorts of way in which money might rightly be put out on interest, but also approved (without any restrictive definition) as "totally just and legitimate" the extrinsic titles which, today in 1981, are the only reasonable basis for a claim of interest on a loan. Those "extrinsic titles" concern the context in which the loan is made or repaid.

A genuine capital market, where interest rates are established by market factors, including the demand for and return on productive investment, expected inflation rates, differential risks, etc., affords a context in which interest can rightly be asked and paid on loans. That has made it easy to overlook the many other contexts (eg, contemporary African village life, but also some much closer to home) in which the old condemnation of usury remains valid. In those contexts it needs not to be rescinded by the Pope or repealed by the "collective conscience", but to be vigorously applied.

Yours faithfully, J. M. FINNISS, University College, Oxford.

Suspended sentences

From Miss D. E. C. Tomlin

Sir, The Reverend D. W. Dale's horror (March 21) at the banning of capital punishment in schools will be shared, not only by teachers. Some years ago, when I taught in a village school, I received a note from a mother: "Please may I have Elizabeth dead at 3 o'clock?"

Yours faithfully, D. E. C. TOMLIN, 135 Buckingham Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, March 21.

The Hayman case

From Mr W. V. Morgan

Sir, Many of us will deplore any interest in paedophilia and pornography, and may think that the law should adequately protect society. Others may disagree.

But why does Mr Dickens think he has the right—especially after the protection of parliamentary privilege—publicly to blacken any one's name? It is called scandalising (and it does not matter whether the story is true or false). Why didn't he just press for an adequate explanation why proceedings were not taken in particular cases without naming names?

Yours faithfully, W. V. MORGAN, 29 Conyers Road, SW16, March 23.

University cuts

From Professor A. Fröhlich, FRSE

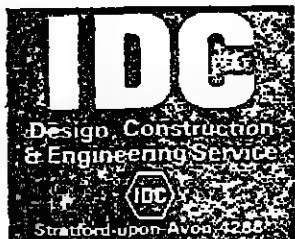
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

Problem of industrial action with political ends, page 21

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS



Stock markets

FT Index 307.4, down 4.3
FT Gilts 69.81, down 0.27

Sterling

52.2630, down 30 points
Index 100.6, unchanged

Dollar

Index 99.5, up 0.3
DM 2.0855, up 40 points

Gold

5328.50, down 512

Money

3 mth sterling 12 1/2-12 3/4
3 mth Euro 14 1/4-14 1/2
6 mth Euro 14 1/4-14 1/2

EEC refund of £276m for British regions

The European Community will transfer about £276m to Britain before the end of the month to help pay for special infrastructure investment programmes in five regions.

The payments, which come after last year's agreement to cut the United Kingdom's EEC budget burden, are being made in respect of Britain's 1980 contributions. They bring the level of refund so far received for last year to £644.6m or 80 per cent of the total amount to which Britain is entitled.

The regions which benefit from the transfer are Scotland, Yorkshire and Humberside, Northern Ireland, the North of England and South-West England. Roughly 40 per cent of the money will be spent on telecommunications projects, almost one-fifth on water and sewerage improvements.

£8m rights issue

Country and New Town Properties is raising £8m through a rights issue of one for two at 53p a share. British and Commonwealth Shipping is taking up its 40 per cent entitlement, and so is Mr Gerald Newton, chairman, for his 6.6 per cent stake. The balance of the issue, 8 million shares, is being underwritten by stockbrokers Rowe & Pitman. The money will help the group expand in North America and improve the European and United Kingdom portfolios.

British Gas office deal

British Gas has paid £24m for its Marble Arch, London office building. The property was jointly owned by Rank Organisation and Newarthill, through a Sir Robert McAlpine subsidiary. Rank will use its £11.4m profit to reduce its borrowings and Newarthill said it had received a large surplus on the deal.

£600m Sudan debt

Agreement on a £600m (£360m) debt rescheduling for Sudan is expected in two months. The five main international creditor banks, working on behalf of more than 100 other banks, agreed outline terms for the package last October and the Sudanese authorities are now discussing the details.

Belgian bank rate

The Belgian National Bank has announced a one point increase of its discount rate to 3 per cent. The rate for current account and special advances was raised two points to 15 per cent.

Esso price rise

Further increases in petrol prices are in the way. Esso added an additional 2p a gallon on midnight last night, and similar increases are expected on other companies.

Loover plan rejected

The 23,000 shopfloor workers at Hoover's Cambs plant near Glasgow have rejected the company's latest plan to cut costs.

Wall Street high

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 1,015.22, up 0.9 on Wall Street yesterday. Its best level in over eight years. The S & P 500 index was 1,234.23 while the S & P rate was 0.345155.

Chancellor renews plea for single figure pay deals

By David Blake
Economics Editor

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday launched a new government drive to talk down the level of pay settlements with a call that they should be "in the range" of a single figure. Addressing the Commons Treasury select committee, Sir Geoffrey drew encouragement from the fact that people have "chosen lower pay settlements and higher growth" in recent months.

He called for a return to the experience of the 1950s when wage increases were low and came from expanding output, not inflation.

The call for pay restraint was coupled with a strong hint that it should be possible to cut interest rates further in the year ahead. Sir Geoffrey said that the "crucial" need to get interest rates down had played a big part in so many of this month's tough budget decisions.

He showed considerable confidence in asserting that the recession would bottom out some time during the first half of this year, claiming that evidence to support this view was visible throughout the country. The Chancellor's performance was generally far more assured than his earlier appearances before the committee. He strongly defended the Budget strategy, and gave warning that pumping in extra demand would have at best a short-term stimulatory effect on output.

The MPs who questioned him scored few points, though they did force him to admit that the Government was concerned about the way in which public spending cuts have hit capital investment rather than current expenditure. Work was under way to look at some of the issues which this raises, he said.

The Chancellor stressed his keenness to involve private capital in joint schemes with the public sector, as soon as they could be shown to be profitable. But he also called on nationalized industries to raise more of their own money. A 1 per cent reduction in costs could liberate an extra £300m for investment he said.

The Chancellor said at his

most confident in rejecting the idea that setting a higher public borrowing limit for next year would have aided recovery. Doing this would have held up interest rates, which might have kept up the exchange rate, he argued.

This would have benefited consumers at the expense of industry, and his Budget had sought to switch some of the country's burden away from the corporate sector.

Because committee members found few inconsistencies in the Government's forecast of its spending and taxation, the Chancellor was able to use the session as an opportunity to put across his point of view more than he had on recent similar occasions.

He was clearly determined to get across the message that falling inflation must imply falling pay settlements and that by this time next year they should be down to the middle of the single figure range, though he refused to fix on any norm.

But this would seem to imply that the Government hopes that earnings will rise by about 5 to 6 per cent during the next pay round, which begins in summer. This would be slightly below the projected rate of inflation, though the Government ministers hoped that in next year's Budget they might be able to cut taxes.

But the Chancellor warned against believing that North Sea oil would provide a new windfall for the economy in years to come.

He pointed out that the Government was already receiving £5,000m a year from the North Sea, yet it was still running a deficit of £10,500m.

[North Sea oil and gas production was worth £5,600m or 3 per cent of gross national product in 1980. It is projected to rise to £10,200m or 5 per cent Britain's gnp by 1984, the Treasury estimates.]

The Chancellor did not pretend that any strong recovery of the economy was likely over the next 12 months, but he did say that it was possible to be "too sceptical" about signs that the recession was bottoming out.

Union threat to disrupt bank cash deliveries

By Margaret Pagnon
Commodities Correspondent

With the 24-hour Barclays Bank strike expected to start at 4.0 pm today, the prospect of further disruption in the banking industry heightened as union officials threatened the distribution of coins and banknotes from cash centres through selective industrial action by messengers.

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu) yesterday decided to ballot selected groups of messengers on whether they want to take action in support of the pay dispute involving 70,000 clerical staff.

The union's executive will meet tomorrow week to consider the next step in the light of both that ballot and a ballot of 7,000 clerical staff who are being asked if they will take part in the second stage of limited industrial action being planned by the union.

Around half of the 400 Barclays Bank computer staff at its Gloucester and Wythenshawe centres have voted to strike. These are at the hub of the bank's operations and control Barclays' automated cash-dispensers—Barclaycard authorizations, and settlement of customers' accounts.

The effect on customers is still unclear, but Bifu said Barclays may be shut if enough operators are called out. Otherwise, Barclays' cash-dispensers will be lost, customers' accounts will not be updated and clearing will be halted for the 24-hour period.

Barclays admitted last night that the strike would cause internal disruption but that there would be minimal inconvenience to customers. The spokesman said the Barclays bank could be stopped but the bank thought it unlikely. "It will be a 24-hour hiccup", he said.

Mr Nick Cowan, director of the Federation of London Clearing Bank Employers, said yesterday that the centres control Barclays' nationwide network. The strike would have more effect because the Bifu members are computer operators rather than clerical employees who took action at Lloyds earlier this week.

Delays in clearing cheques could be up to two days, Barclays banks may be stopped and accounts would not be updated and this would create a backlog of work. But Mr Cowan added that the centres run on a 24-hour and seven-day week basis and should be operating normally within a day or two.

The Clearing Banks Union, which represents 53,000 members in the five clearing banks, has not instructed its members to cross Bifu picket lines but has left it to individuals to decide. Results of the union's ballot on industrial action will be known on Monday.

Bifu said it was "delighted" with the result of the 24-hour stoppage by clerical staff at the Lloyds computer centre at Sanson House, Blackfriars, which ended on Tuesday night. Union officials claimed that "the bulk of cheques" had not been cleared during normal working hours. Lloyds management said, however, that about 1.1 million cheques had gone through normally.

Conditional go-ahead for Berisford's British Sugar bid

By Michael Prest
Commodities Correspondent

A renewed bid by S. & W. Berisford, the commodity trading group, for the British Sugar Corporation is possible after a Monopolies Commission ruling yesterday, the commission said, though the merger might operate against the public interest, Berisford would be allowed to go ahead if it agreed to safeguards laid down by Mr John Biffen, the Secretary of State for Trade.

The commission specified two conditions for the bid proceedings. One was that Berisford would have to cease trading sugar refined by Tate & Lyle, except where the sugar was bought for use in Berisford's or BSC's own products.

The second condition was that BSC must be kept as an independent subsidiary, and that Berisford must publish financial statements about the sugar BSC equivalent to that produced by BSC at present.

Berisford said immediately after the announcement, made by Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, that its board had asked for a meeting with the Government to discuss plans for the disposal of the Government's own 24 per cent stake in BSC.

BSC shares gained 5p in after-hours trading to close at 290p, with about one million shares reportedly changing hands. Despite the ruling, the market's evident belief that a new bid was likely, Mr John Beckett, chief executive of BSC, said that he would await Berisford's next move.

It was understood, however, that BSC met last night with its professional advisers to consider defensive moves. Both BSC and Berisford feel that the conditions laid down by the commission do not present an obstacle. Berisford is believed to have told the commission that it would accept these restrictions.

Berisford's original £124m bid for BSC was made last May, and the reference to the commission came in June. At the end of 1980 the commission asked for a three-month extension, chiefly because of the complexity of the sugar market.

What primarily concerned the commission was that there is not, in its judgment, much competition in the supply of sugar to Britain. There are only two refineries, BSC, which handles beet and whose prices are basically governed by the EEC, and Tate & Lyle, a financially weaker cane sugar refiner, the Caribbean and Pacific.

The commission did not accept Berisford's claim that its sugar importing activity as a trader would compete freely with BSC.

It was similarly concluded that providing adequate information was made available, there need not be a deterioration in relations between British Sugar and the beet farmers and other workers. But one member of the commission disagreed, arguing that industrial relations would suffer so much that the merger should be stopped.

Prudential profits fall hits market

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
and Richard Allen

One of the country's largest insurers, Prudential Corporation, sent a shock wave through the stock market yesterday when it revealed profits down by almost without exception the market's specialists had misjudged what was happening at the Prudential in the second half of 1980. After the results, the shares fell by 16p to 243p.

There was selling of other leading insurance shares, notably those of Legal & General, another big life insurance group, due to report shortly. Its shares fell by 7p to 245p.

The Prudential's life business continued to grow last year: premium income exceeded £1,000m for the first time, increasing by nearly 15 per cent. Profits from this area were 22 per cent higher at £29.5m.

But there was a different story on the general insurance side. Here underwriting losses more than doubled to £33.9m. Surprisingly, investment income remained almost static at £33.6m. So the Prudential was unable, as is usually the case, to offset its losses before tax.

In Britain, where there was a £1.5m deterioration in underwriting losses of £9.3m, the group blamed an increase in the number and cost of claims, particularly in house contents insurance.

A similar tale of underwriting losses was told from the Prudential's Australian, Belgian and Canadian businesses.

EEC ministers set for crucial steel talks

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

European Community industry ministers are to begin crucial discussions today on the continuing crisis in the steel industry. The outcome of this meeting will largely determine the slow climb back to financial strength, or whether the continuing price war will claim further victims, and thousands more steel workers' jobs.

Today's meeting will consider proposals for a coordinated reduction of excess capacity, which has been an important factor in the collapse in steel prices and the phasing out of state aids for the industry by the middle of 1983.

The efforts to reach agreement on these proposals are being complemented by discussions among the steel producers who are trying to secure voluntary curbs on production and deliveries within the EEC mandatory controls end in June.

Mr Ian MacGregor, the British Steel Corporation chairman, who addresses a conference in London yesterday organized by the Institute of Purchasing and Supply, stressed the need for steel producers to try to achieve stability between supply and demand.

"There has been no increase in prices for over two years, and this despite the high level of domestic inflation. The position has been worsened still further by the recent relative strength of the pound, which has reached such low levels that no steel producers in Europe are in profit. This is a nonsensical situation and the success of British Steel's corporate plan will depend on some strengthening of price levels through 1981-82."

Mr MacGregor defended the corporation's policy of cutting prices to match those of imported steel, and insisted that it was not their intention to undercut prices of the steel they deliberately to take business away from the private sector.

Mr William Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation who



Mr William Sims: fatal flaws in plan.

clashed with Mr MacGregor yesterday over the foundations of the corporate plan, will today urge Viscount Edmond Davignon, the EEC Industry Commissioner, to put pressure on the United Kingdom Government to "freeze" further reductions in corporate capacity. He will press for capacity cuts within the EEC.

At the same conference he described Mr MacGregor as "an absolute dictator" and criticized the manner in which the corporation had formulated its corporate plan.

"As far as we are concerned we cannot endorse something we did not see. There are fatal flaws in the plan. We are following a pattern of contraction which is wrecking our industrial base", he said.

Improvements: Preliminary results from the first two months of operation of the British Steel Corporation's corporate restructuring plan indicated significant improvements. Department of Industry officials told a select committee of MPs in the House of Commons yesterday (Patricia Tisdall writes).

Mr Kenneth Binning, under secretary of the iron and steel division of the department said that the results were due to the bulk of cheques "had not been cleared during normal working hours. Lloyds management said, however, that about 1.1 million cheques had gone through normally."

Rothschild strengthens its corporate finance arm

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Merchant bank N. M. Rothschild is strengthening its corporate finance department by recruiting Mr Michael Richardson, son of stockbrokers Cazenove & Co.

Mr Richardson, who will lead the department, is one of the most senior of Cazenove's corporate finance team where he has been advising House of Fraser in its battle against Loro. He is also on the board of The Savoy Hotel group and helping fend off the unwelcome bid from Trusthouse Forte.

Cazenove are brokers to Rothschild, but Mr Richardson said the offer of the post came as an enormous surprise. He looked to the challenge of being a principal rather than an agent.

Mr Evelyn de Rothschild, who heads the merchant bank, said yesterday that, although there was a strong young corporate finance team at the bank, it needed a good man at the top and Rothschild would now be "trying to build a team which will be as competitive as any in the City".

Rothschild's corporate finance

Shipbuilders pay talks adjourned

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Talks on a pay and productivity deal for British Shipbuilders' 70,000 manual workers and staff will resume next week after rejection by the unions of proposals for sweeping changes in working practices in the industry.

Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Union leaders have made it clear informally to the corporation that they will not accept plans to allow skilled workers to switch between different trades very

much further than at present. The plans expand a declaration already made by top management that they are seeking "total interchangeability" between trades as one of the productivity measures they wish to see attached to this year's pay deal.

Although the outline proposals may be discussed when pay talks resume, probably on Monday in Newcastle, the corporation will say that the detailed interchangeability measures are neither realistic nor as beneficial as British Shipbuilders believe.

For its part, the corporation is determined to reduce what it sees as costly restrictive practices, particularly among skilled shipyard workers. Many of the proposals would affect working practices particularly within the Amalgamated Society of Boilermakers.

Meanwhile, talks on the corporation's restructuring programme were adjourned after a brief meeting held yesterday. There has been a shortfall of 600 in the staff reduction of 2,600 which British Shipbuilders was aiming at. The possibility of compulsory redundancy for the 600 was not raised at yesterday's talks.

Tokyo retorts that Western industrial production cannot compete Chorus of protest at Japanese export drive

Japan is facing a barrage of protest and complaints from nations across the world because of its highly efficient industrial plants are threatening the future of domestic competitors in the United States, Western Europe and Asia.

But in retaliation, Tokyo officials complained that Japan was being asked to curb its exports because Western products could not compete. Officials in the Ministry of International Trade and Industry claimed Japan had achieved this competitive edge because it had outstripped the West in industrial production over the past 13 years.

The loudest protest came from Washington yesterday where President Reagan met Mr Masayoshi Ito, the Japanese Foreign Minister, to persuade Japan to curb car exports to the United States. Tokyo officials said their motor industry would restrain car exports to America on a voluntary basis. These exports have risen from 800,000 vehicles in 1975 to 1.9 million last year.

On another front, M Francois Missoffe, a French trade representative, told Japan that France might be forced to introduce special measures to protect its markets from more competitive Japanese cars and other industrial goods.

Defending France's policies in an interview with a Japanese news agency yesterday, M Missoffe is reported to have said the French Government had decided to limit Japanese car exports to less than 3 per cent of the country's domestic market "until our cars can compete with Japanese cars". Sales of Japanese cars in France rose by 25 per cent last year to 54,897.

Earlier this month, the EEC accepted a French proposal banning indirect imports of Japanese colour television sets.

Even Europe's most efficient industrial power, West Germany, has lodged protests that Japan is beginning to capture an alarming sector of its domestic car, television, electrical consumer goods and machine tool markets. German diplomats are worried specifically because Japanese car exports to West Germany rose by 70 per cent last year.

Recent complaints from the EEC forced Tokyo to urge Japanese industrialists to regulate car exports to Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg in "a more prudent and moderate manner". The Association of South-east Asian Nations has also complained about one-sided trade with Japan.

In their defence, the Japanese say their industrial production has risen by 130 per cent since 1967, compared with 50 per cent for West Germany, 30 per cent for the United States, and 10 per cent for the United Kingdom.

The Japanese Government is expected to deal with the problem of placating the United States first.

A formula for voluntary cuts in car exports is expected to be presented to the United States when Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, travels to Washington in May.

Refinery rescue fails

By Hugh Clayton

Sugar processors have rejected a plan to keep the Tate & Lyle cane sugar refinery at Liverpool open by exporting surplus stocks.

The company told trade union leaders last night that exploratory talks with the British Sugar Corporation about a joint export venture had ended without agreement.

The venture was proposed by union leaders in February and



INTERIM RESULTS
(unaudited)

	25 weeks ended 9th January 1981	23 weeks ended 11th January 1980	Year ended 30th June 1980
Turnover	14,366	12,022	22,988
Trading profit	2,380	1,812	3,891
Deduct: Interest	55	143	165
Profit before taxation	2,305	1,669	3,726
Taxation (U.K. Tax 52%)	965	634	1,310
Deduct: Extraordinary items	1,340	1,035	2,416
Profit for the period	1,330	1,026	2,308
Earnings per share pre-tax	19.3p	13.9p	31.0p
Earnings per share after tax	11.1p	8.6p	20.1p
Dividends per share	2.7p	2.0p	5.0p

Mrs J. M. Tyrrell, Chairman, comments:

The profit for the 25 weeks to the 9th January 1981 is very encouraging and much in line with our forecast and expectations. Providing trade continues at its present level we expect that the second half of the year will be at least as good as the first.

Hand knitting continues to fare better than textiles generally, although overall the market is somewhat reduced. We have however again managed to increase our market share resulting in an increase in volume as well as turnover.

Your directors have declared a net interim dividend of 2.7p per share on the ordinary shares (1980: 2p per share) payable on the 19th May 1981 to all ordinary shareholders on the register of members at the close of business on 24th April 1981.

Sirdar Limited, Akerthorpe, Wakefield, WF2 9ND

PRICE CHANGES

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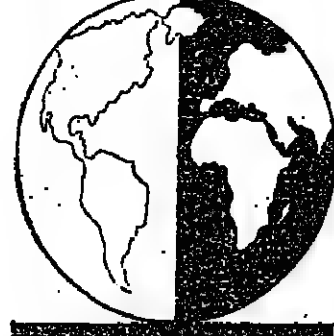
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THE POUND

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New NEB subsidiary to provide 'grass roots' loans up to £50,000

Aid for high technology 'little men'

Formation of a new subsidiary company aimed at stimulating the expansion of small businesses, particularly in high technology, was announced yesterday by the National Enterprise Board.

The new company, Oakwood Loan Finance, has been established in line with the Government's revised guidelines for the NEB, which require it to become a catalyst for investment in small companies. Oakwood will provide five-year loans of up to £50,000.

Announcing the establishment of the new company—which opens up another avenue of finance for smaller companies whose growth the Government is dedicated to promoting—Sir Frederick Wood, chairman of the NEB, said that it aimed to nourish the grass roots of business.

Against the background of the loan guarantee scheme for small businesses to be operated by the clearing banks and announced in the Budget earlier this month, Sir Frederick said: "Over a quarter of a million of Britain's gross national product is attributable to smaller businesses and self-employed people. They represent one of our driving forces in identifying new technology and innovation in general. Every large business began as a small enterprise based on individual initiative."

The NEB's new subsidiary will have an initial tranche of £1m to allocate to deserving businesses which have clear potential. Over the past few months while the scheme has been formulated, a number of potential applicants have already indicated their interest, although the executives will be responsible for decisions on loan allocations. It will make clear that most companies will be expected to have sounded out other sources of finance.

Most of the loans to be made by Oakwood are expected to be between £20,000 and £40,000, and the NEB believes that its scheme will fill a gap in the rapidly expanding market of loan facilities for the small company.

The NEB team is promising speedy processing of applications (between 10 to 14 days) and companies taking up loans, which will carry an interest rate 2 per cent above the bank's rate, will qualify for a three-year repayment "holiday" which is seen by its promoters as enabling com-



Sir Frederick Wood: opening another avenue of finance for smaller companies.

panies to concentrate on profitable growth in the early years.

A feature of the scheme will be that, in parallel with the granting of loans, Oakwood would seek to purchase warrants from small businesses, granted a loan facility. A warrant would allow Oakwood to subscribe for a maximum of 20 per cent of the equity capital in company between the end of the fifth and seventh years.

This facility would offer small companies the option of equity funding by the NEB through Oakwood, as a further stage in their development. But companies will be able to "buy out" the exercise of the warrant by Oakwood by making a payment to the NEB subsidiary. The "buy-out" payment will normally be up to a maximum of 20 per cent of a multiple of two or three times the average profits of the company in its fourth and fifth years.

The company said that loans would be available to new ventures and to established companies considered to have high growth potential, although Oakwood would also be prepared to provide loans as part of an overall financing package put together for a small company.

The establishing of the new loan company comes after the formation last year by the NEB of Anglo-American Venture Capital for high technology businesses in the assisted areas. Another company, Grosvenor Development Capital, provides specialist help for a group of the NEB's smaller investments. At present the board is processing about 50 applications for loans made to Anglo-American Venture Capital.

Peter Hill

Soviet block debts to West total \$67,000m

Soviet block nations owed Western countries \$67,000m (£23,130m) last year, up from \$50,000m in 1979. But Western banks remained lightly exposed, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

The increased borrowings were used mainly to finance Eastern European current account deficits and to build up foreign currency reserves.

Most of the debt was in the form of official credits granted by Western nations, with the largest lender being West Germany. France and Italy. Most of these credits were aimed at promoting mutual exports.

However, rising world prices of oil and gas last year gave the Soviet Union what is probably its first trade surplus with the West and Japan, western trade experts said.

Italian banks to raise prime rates

Italian banks have decided to raise their prime rate to 22.5 per cent, after the Bank of Italy raised its discount rate to 19 per cent. Advances for export financing will now be made at 20.5 per cent and lending to ordinary clients is expected to be in the region of 24 to 26 per cent, or in some cases up to 28 per cent.

Japan 'discrimination'

Sir Y. K. Kan, chairman of the semi-official Hongkong Trades Development Council, alleged yesterday that Japan's exclusion of some Hongkong products from the Japanese Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) was a "discriminatory" measure. Certain Hongkong goods for Japan are exempted from import duty because Hongkong is considered a developing territory.

Sweden-Norway pact

Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway, and Mr. Torbjörn Fälldin, Prime Minister of Sweden, have signed a 20-year economic cooperation agreement between their two countries. The agreement involves the establishment of a joint fund to help to provide favourable loans for future joint industrial projects.

Indonesia oil find

Conoco has discovered a substantial oil deposit in Irian Jaya, Indonesia and test drilling has yielded 6,000 barrels of crude a day, the Pertamina State Oil company has announced. Conoco is working on a production sharing agreement with Pertamina and further drillings will be made.

EEC trade deficit

The European Economic Community's trade deficit with the United States doubled last year to \$25,000m (£10,800m). Commission sources blamed the deficit, twice as big as last year, on the EEC industrial performance and rising imports of manufactured goods.

US investment up

Overseas subsidiaries of American companies are planning investments of \$53,000m (£23,000m) this year, 13 per cent more than in 1980, the Commerce Department said in Washington. The 1981 investments will reach \$20,000m in the EEC.

Fuel price rise

France is to raise the price of petrol, diesel and household heating fuel by five centimes (one litre to 195.5 francs (17p)) from tomorrow. The price for a litre of super grade petrol goes up to 3.77 francs.

Dubai oil contract

Toyo Menka Kaisha has signed a contract to import one million barrels of crude oil from Dubai for shipment in April.

UK pledge to Portugal on textile imports

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Despite the problems in its own textile industry, there will be no change in Britain's policy on low-cost textiles from Portugal until that country is "fully established" within the European Economic Community.

This undertaking was given in Oporto yesterday by Mr. John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade.

With Britain's textile and clothing industry losing 100,000 jobs last year, the Government has been under intense pressure to cut imports, Mr. Biffen said. But it was in everybody's interests that present understandings on Portuguese exports continued for the time being, he added.

There is a voluntary restraint agreement on Portugal's exports of textiles and clothing to the United Kingdom that sets upper volume limits, but in return allows Portugal accounts for a share of the British market, with annual imports of well over 20 million.

About half of Portugal's total exports of all goods to Europe find their way to Britain, Portugal's oldest trading partner.

The voluntary restraint agreement runs out in January, but Britain is to renew this to cover the period until Portugal joins the EEC, probably in 1983. The transition period, during which present trade levels with Britain would be expected to continue, could last at least a year, and probably considerably longer.

Little comfort: But Mr. Biffen's remarks will be of little comfort to the United Kingdom's man-made fibre industry which has been forced to cut back extensively over the past few months as a result of the recession, continued imports being made by imports and rising energy costs (Peter Hill writes).

The industry's sector working party, which operates under the National Economic Development Office, has warned Mr. Kenneth Baker, Minister for Industry, that output is expected to fall by nearly 40,000 tonnes over the next two years from last year's 433,000 tonnes, with further job losses the inevitable consequence.

In talks with Mr. Baker, the working party complained about the effect of the high sterling exchange rate, high costs, especially of energy, the volume of American imports; and the need for a stable domestic market.

NEDO is to undertake a detailed investigation of the key elements in the cost structure of the British fibres industry compared with its competitors.

FBI inquiry into loan for Australian airline

Washington, March 25.—The FBI is investigating the United States Export-Import bank's low-interest, \$290m (£125m) loan to an Australian airline, controlled by Mr. Rupert Murdoch, for possible misuse of public money.

The inquiry, launched at the request of the Justice Department's public integrity section, is to determine whether the unusually low interest loan was politically motivated, granted in return for a political favour—or commercially justified.

According to sources who have been interviewed by the FBI, the investigation began last September, more than six months after the bank gave preliminary approval to the controversial loan enabling Mr. Murdoch's Ansett Transport Industries to buy 18 Boeing 767s, including five wide-body 767s, at an average 8.1 per cent interest rate.

Former President Jimmy Carter, Mr. Murdoch, and Mr. John Moore, president of the Ex-Im bank, have all denied any connection between the loan and the endorsement of Mr. Carter during the New York Presidential campaign. The New York Post, which is owned by Mr. Murdoch, has argued that the favourable financing terms were necessary to keep Ansett from buying wide-body jets from a European manufacturer.

The loan, now before Congress for review, is to be granted finally by the bank next week if Congress does not intervene in the meantime. The loan drew strong Congressional criticism within days of the bank approving it in only half the time the bank normally takes to clear loan applications and at terms more favourable than those on loans granted previously for similar deals. The loan was approved on February 28, 1980, just six days after the New York Post endorsed former President Carter.

Critics point out that the endorsement came only three days after Mr. Murdoch had a private lunch with Mr. Carter at the White House—a lunch that took place the same day Mr. Murdoch met with bank officials and personally handled Ansett's loan application to Mr. Moore, a Carter appointee who was a strong supporter of the former President during the 1976 campaign.

The FBI has interviewed Treasury aides and the European aircraft manufacturer which was competing with Boeing to sell wide-body jets to Ansett.

In addition to the FBI inquiry the General Accounting Office, the "watchdog" of Congress, is also investigating the loan to see if part of it is going for rebates to the airline for buying United States aircraft. The charge, made in two anonymous phone calls to Congressional aides, has been denied by bank officials, who say Ansett has signed a certificate of no interest that none of the loan money is being used for cash kickbacks.—Washington Star News Service.

Aircraft loss 'record'

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Insurance could face record claims for aircraft lost last year. Mr. Jack Webb, retiring chairman of the Aviation Insurance Companies Association, said in his annual report which was presented in London yesterday.

Twenty aircraft were built in the West and insured for a total of \$200m (£87m) last year, the highest number since 1973.

Passenger deaths on western-built aircraft totalled 745, compared with 879 in 1979. Crew fatalities were 92 compared with 70 the year before.

Redundancy level remains high

By David Hewson

At least 45,000 people were made redundant last month, bringing the total put out of work during the last seven months to 243,800.

The latest provisional figures show that the number of redundancies is not increasing over recent months and may have fallen slightly, but it is still well above last year.

According to estimates of the Manpower Services Commission, 90,000 redundancies occurred during the first two months of this year compared with 56,100 during the same period of 1980.

The principal areas affected last month were metal manufacturing, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering, which accounted for 35 per cent of the total.

There are no signs that the continuing problems of industry are abating.

The number of jobs supported by the Government's temporary short-time working compensation scheme, which encourages companies to move onto short-time rather than make employees redundant, rose dramatically last month to 962,000 from 680,000 in January. Last December, the scheme had supported 595,000 jobs.

The support given by the scheme is limited to nine months, and once it runs out the jobs which it had maintained become vulnerable to redundancy.

The largest single group of redundancies announced last month involved British Shipbuilders, where 2,600 employees face losing their jobs. A further 1,200 redundancies were announced by Birmingham City Council, and 800 at the BL plant at Cowley.

New Ford trucks range for Europe

By Edward Townsend

Ford today launches a new range of trucks for sale throughout Europe as part of its £125m investment programme in Britain.

The trucks, named Cargo, will replace the company's D-Series vehicles which last year captured 27 per cent of the up to 28-tonne gross weight sector of the United Kingdom heavy vehicle market.

Cargo will cover the 6-to-28.5-tonne market and basic models include truck, tipper and articulated vehicles. The range will be produced at Ford's Langley plant near Slough at the rate of 200 a day. It is expected that 50 per cent of the output will be exported.

The trucks represent a big challenge by Ford to European manufacturers, including Leyland Vehicles which is attempting to increase its market share with its T45 series.

Ford says its new truck is cheaper to run. Servicing time and noise levels are claimed to have been reduced by 50 per cent, the cabs have low aerodynamic drag, and safety and comfort have been improved. The Cargo trucks would be priced at less than five per cent above the D-Series models.

Ford's total European output of commercial vehicles last year was 206,366 of which 138,373 (67 per cent) were manufactured in Britain.

The company makes trucks at Langley, Transit vans at Southampton and Escort vans at Halewood, Merseyside. Last year, 60 per cent of D-Series trucks and 35 per cent of Ford's total United Kingdom commercial vehicle output was exported.

The company said that apart from supplying Cargo trucks to kit form to a factory in Portugal it would not be possible to manufacture the trucks because of low cost countries because of infrastructure problems.

Advanced passenger train support

From Mr. Anthony Smallhorn
Sir, Anyone interested in the industrial future of this country must again view Michael Bailey's article "Rough ride for the tilting train" (March 17) with abject horror.

When, oh when, will we learn that projects such as this are advanced passenger trains are "seedcorn" of future generations of engineering? Government does not learn, so probably we need a revolution.

More than five years ago I wrote, "Historically APT cannot be measured as a development expenditure plus £26m for three prototypes plus £60m for production units. Its cost must be measured as the first example of a nationalised industry of developing and producing a successful industrial heater, which increases any industrial understanding to a degree far more valuable than the actual cost."

This is still true. British Rail must be allowed to be competitive in the late 1980s and 1990s. Projects are solved by engineering input but this costs money. Countries are bankrupt by politicians and muddled thinking.

Doubts about passenger expense will be completely assuaged with regular use especially if speeds higher than 125 mph are allowed. After all, nobody complains when an aircraft

banks. The trouble is that part of the narrow-mindedness of strategic planning has meant that BR have not allowed for any track realignment so APTs advantage over the high speed train has been wasted away and both seem destined to cruise at 125 mph.

Half-an-hour saved between London and Glasgow means no time saving at all on shorter, straighter lines. APT can either be run faster for the same money as HST or at the same speed and save money as it is more aerodynamic and lighter. The whole argument is rather as though Concorde had been designed with a take-off and landing speed which made it impossible to use any British airport. Would we then have spent the money to improve our airports?

No other industrial nation is so lacking in the understanding of its destiny and of the value of prestige projects. We still fail to measure value on a spiritual basis. In Japan the Ministry of International Trade and Industry has a specific remit to go into the highways and byways of the world of technology and purchase ideas which will be of value to the changing industrial status of the country. Every day company results and government cutbacks indicate that industries, both private and nationalized, are being slowed to a crawl.

In the case many of the development programmes will have stopped or are being halted. Frustrated engineers, their ideas and projects will be easy picking for Miti or any other clear thinking nation. Just as they were for Boeing after the cancellation of TSR-2.

When will we ever learn? APT must succeed. More money must be found to make sure that the development succeeds. Conventionally engineered fast trains will not interest overseas markets. Lack of understanding of the total potential of this and other projects has meant that development times have become ridiculously protracted. With the likelihood of £1,000m being spent on track electrification APT will be suited for more lines and should be allowed to run at higher speeds. It is then a more competitive.

Without projects like these Great Britain has no long-term industrial future and no interest in the development of new technology. Yours faithfully, ANTHONY SMALLHORN, Wrayfield House, Stotford, Hertfordshire SG5 4NR. March 17.

Business names registry

From the Director of the National Consumer Council
Sir, The amendment to the Companies (No. 2) Bill which was carried in the House of Lords last week indicates the strength and breadth of feeling that it would be misguided to abolish the Registry of Business Names.

Consumers, creditors, businesses and journalists all, for differing reasons, share the need to be guaranteed access to adequate information about the true identity of traders. Anyone who sets himself up in business as a trader should say who he is.

Windfall profits tax on banking and oil

From Mr. Mark Dunn
Sir, Mr. Keable-Elliott (Business News Letters, March 19) has fallen into a facile intellectual trap in seeking to justify windfall profits taxes by referring to the plight of weaker companies.

Of course there is a recession, and of course many manufacturing businesses are in a bad way. Equally, their contribution to tax revenue has been reduced, and the Chancellor has to look elsewhere to replace the resumption shortfall.

But this has got nothing whatever to do with the principle of windfall profits taxes which are relatively prosperous.

There are those—and I am one—who have very serious doubts about the future ability of many traditional British industries to survive at all. Let alone recover to the point from which they can pull the economy out of the 15-25 per cent decline which is now coinciding with a world recession.

Under these circumstances, though not at the peak of financial strength, to offer a six-pointed star to the future. To impose damaging imposts upon the type of company which reduces the strength of just the kind of business which we will depend on more than ever in the future.

We live in a tough and unforgiving world. The sooner we learn to run with winners and not out losers the better. Yours faithfully, MARK DUNN, Crescent House, 152 Walton Street, London, SW3 2JJ. March 19.

ICL loan guarantee

From Mr. D. B. James
Sir, What is happening to the Conservative Party, has its policy towards ICL been changed? "D-U-R-N-S"?

Can Sir Keith Joseph really expect us in the industry to believe that the £200m loan guarantee to ICL will not be needed?

The City's best predictions are that ICL will need £150m by its year end in September and will make a "conservative" profit of £60m. Based on these sort of figures how does he really expect the company to compete and service its existing and new borrowings?

Having offered the company to a number of cash, technology and management experts, ICL should be fully aware that they and the commercial financial establishments, the experts, hold out no hope of ICL being a viable concern in its present form.

If the company has been unable to compete profitably in a previously protected (single tender) market, how is it going to operate successfully now that this protection has been removed. Especially in the present environment when even the giants (for example, IBM) are finding themselves on the onslaught from the Japanese.

Yet he is committing not just £200m in guarantees but the hardware that will support for the next decade the Government's main cash collecting system, the PAYE system. Does he really think that we are so naive as to believe that if the Government's existing investment in ICL equipment needs protecting in the tune of £200m, that when we have the PAYE system installed the Government can under any circumstance afford to let the company fail.

D. B. JAMES, Brookwood, Bournemouth, Dorset. P.O. Box 102, Bournemouth. P.O. Box 102, Bournemouth. P.O. Box 102, Bournemouth.

Present day engineers

From Mr. G. J. Caplen
Sir, BBC television is at present showing a series on nineteenth century engineers. These men are still revered by the public, which makes it very odd that the same public regards today's engineers as men with oily rags who are always on strike.

Granted that the term "engineer" does lead one to think of a man working with his hands, I have for many years advocated substituting the name "applied scientist", but this cannot be the reason for the difference as the nineteenth century men were also known as engineers. Telford even had the word inscribed on his bridges.

It is my belief that the different attitude stems from the anonymity of the work done by today's engineers. Telford has his name on his bridges. If there is anything at all on the Severn Bridge it will almost certainly be the name of the company. Of course the modern

tendency to specialize has made it difficult to say that any one person has designed the whole of a large project, but I would have thought that the same thing applied to architecture and most people know that Sir Basil Spence designed Coventry cathedral.

Another difficulty is that engineering is now so complex that even if the public saw, for instance, that I designed a first arc furnace transformer to have on load tap changing and to operate from 66,000 volts, it would mean nothing to most of them. Yet the same applies to scientists and they are at least respected, even if not as highly as solicitors and accountants.

Could the BBC be persuaded to do a similar series on modern engineers? Yours faithfully, G. J. CAPLEN, 8 Acon Close, Stafford ST16 3XB. March 15.

Curbs on British Telecom

From Professor K. W. Cattermole
Sir, One of the most damaging and least explicable features of the Government's economic policy is the failure to distinguish between the public sector's current expenditure and productive investment. Financial needs for both are lumped into an arbitrarily constituted PSBR (public sector borrowing requirement), with the result that a joint constraint aimed primarily at current outgoings actually hinders useful developments, with ill effects all round. Nowhere is this more clearly illustrated than in telecommunications.

Telecommunications is both a public utility and a manufacturing sector of prime importance to the economy. It has excellent prospects of continuing the volume growth and technological development which it has long exhibited. The nationalized utility, British Telecom, is among the few leading administrations, whether judged by size or by technical competence, which are expanding rapidly.

Research institutions for telecommunications are internationally recognized for their technical skills. One of the most heartening sights, to a British citizen all too aware of our beleaguered economy, was the British presence at the last major international telecommunications exhibition (at Geneva in September, 1979), where the United Kingdom pavilion outshone all others in its working exhibits of well-designed modern products, achieved by the coordinated efforts of our public sector and private sector

bodies. Here, surely, is a potential winner if only we back it strongly enough.

It seems quite irrational that a profitable utility, growing at some 10 per cent per annum and simultaneously engaged in technological updating and service innovations, should have its borrowing powers restricted to one half per cent of assets. Yet such was the case for BT last year. This year's limit, though higher, is still only a small fraction of the necessary, let alone the desirable, investment.

The average telephone user probably does not realize that BT's productivity has improved consistently for many years. He has heard of, even if not suffered from, delays in provision. He knows that charges have recently risen. He may not be aware that the first deficiency is mainly due to under-investment and the second to the financing of nearly all capital expenditure from current revenue.

Let me explain briefly the case for further borrowing for investment in BT:

(a) improvements in telecommunications services benefit the whole community and especially its commercial sector; (b) most of the money spent will provide work for the British capital-goods industry; (c) expansion of the home market base will strengthen British exports by keeping up momentum in technical development, by reducing unit costs and by providing a work-in-showcase for British products; (d) such a programme

imposes no loss on public funds, but on the contrary would be an attractive investment with a good financial return.

It is well known that the Government intends to reduce the areas of BT monopoly and to open the supply of telecommunications services to private enterprise; and it might be thought that this is an alternative way of bringing finance to telecommunications. However, this is not so. Such new enterprise, however useful, can supply only a small fraction of the public's need for telecommunications; moreover, most of them would be dependent in some way on the existence, and efficient operation, of the BT network. Thus there is no substitute for direct investment in the main public network.

Finally, it should be said that our industrial competitors overseas do not subject themselves to such artificial shackles. The United States and Sweden, France and Japan all differ from the United Kingdom in the degree of government dirigisme. But they all succeed in adequately financing telecommunications both as a public utility and as a manufacturing industry. We can, and should, do likewise.

Yours faithfully, K. W. CATERMOLE, Professor of Telecommunications, Department of Electrical Engineering Science, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ.

NatWest Investment Accounts

NatWest announces that with effect from Wednesday April 1st, 1981 the rate applied to

THREE MONTH NOTICE INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

will be reduced from 13½% to 11½% per annum.

SIX MONTH NOTICE INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

will be reduced from 14% to 12% per annum.

National Westminster Bank Limited

Source: The Times, The Sunday Times, The Financial Times, Feb 26-March 24

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Prudential out of balance

Mounting underwriting losses are commonplace in insurance these days and Prudential and Eagle Star duly produced two huge ones yesterday. What is usual, however, is that these losses are more than covered by growing investment income. In the case of Prudential they are not, which explains a 6½ per cent fall to £42.5m in net profits, albeit there is the consolation of a 15½ per cent increase in the gross dividend to 15.7p a share.

What happened is not entirely clear. Broadly, though, while the Prudential's life business moved majestically ahead during 1980 (premium income topped the £1,000m mark for the first time and profits from life operations increased by 22 per cent), real difficulties were being encountered in its general insurance activities.

Underwriting losses more than doubled to £33.9m. In no area or territory did the Prudential avoid losses and, to add to its discomfort, Mercantile and General Reinsurance, operating in a volatile business at

yield much below 2 per cent is debatable. Additionally, there is, of course, the fatalist approach. This says that real returns from conventional investments can no longer be looked upon even as probable. So anything that guarantees simply to maintain the real purchasing power of the investment should be grabbed, whether or not it offers an additional yield. My only comment on that would be that if we are sinking into a world of nil real returns over the long term, then one might reasonably doubt that the new stock itself will be redeemed in 1996.

The irony with this stock is that the tender takes place a week after the publication of figures showing a sharp upturn in the six monthly rate of inflation. One of the reasons, apparently, for holding back an index-linked issue last year was that the government wished to issue such a stock only when inflation was on the way down: it did not wish to lay itself open to the accusation that it was behaving irresponsibly.

As it is, potential tenderers are now bound to consider how much any deterioration in inflationary expectations is likely to influence the price of the stock over the coming months. Theoretically, the stock could respond violently to any change in inflationary expectations that in turn affected the perception of an acceptable rate of real return. What potential investors might ask themselves, however, is how much in practice the stock would have moved last Friday on the announcement of a rather disappointing RPI.

Berisford/British Sugar

Conditional go-ahead

It would have been easier for S. & W. Berisford if the Monopolies Commission had ruled clearly against its bid for British Sugar. For Berisford is now faced with several possibilities: it can press ahead with the bid, sell its stake, or less likely, do nothing. The decision will be governed by two considerations, the price and the Commission's conditions.

The conditions are far from insurmountable. Indeed, Berisford has already told the Commission in evidence that it would accept them, which puts the report's insistence on them in an interesting light and which makes it hard for Berisford not to proceed on these grounds. The only reservation is what exactly the Commission and the government understand by running BSC as a separate company. It is not Berisford's style to leave its subsidiaries to go their own way.

Price, however, will be the crux. If BSC's profits this year are £44m, and Berisford improves its bid by about 50 per cent to 330p a share, the exit p/e for BSC shareholders is 9.4, which is not wildly attractive. BSC is probably worth about 400p a share, and at almost 290p last night it is yielding some 5 per cent. Berisford is about 112p, which is equivalent to 168p after adjusting for the capitalization issue, and yields nearer 6 per cent.

At 330p a share Berisford would be paying about £200m for BSC. It is quite possible that BSC's shares will run up to this level, and there was heavy trading last night as speculators hoped for a Berisford bid. Obviously, Berisford could keep the market guessing, take profits, and look elsewhere. But it is more likely that with BSC profits of £52m in sight next year Berisford will pitch in at 330p to 350p a share, hoping that it can thereby lure out the Government's 24 per cent holding.

On May 1, 1930, when the United States was showing signs of recovery from the financial and economic crisis that had hit it the previous year, President Herbert Hoover publicly declared: "I am convinced we have passed the worst." This was on the eve of the first American bank crisis which ushered in the Great Depression.

It is a cautionary tale for those of a sanguine disposition who are today boldly predicting that the recession in Britain has bottomed out.

The reasons why some recessions are quickly reversed and others deepen into depression like that of 1929-33 in the United States, are not clearly understood. Certainly, there is little hard evidence yet that the British economy has temporarily stopped contracting, much less that we have reached the trough of the cycle or that recovery will be experienced some time soon.

The optimism recently expressed by some Treasury economists, that the trough may have been reached, is based largely on what are known as the "cyclical indicators". These are four blocks of indicators, grouped according to whether their fluctuations precede changes in the economic cycle or whether they coincide with it, or lag behind it.

The leading group of indicators is subdivided into "longer leading" and "shorter leading" indicators. The composite index of "longer leading" indicators (comprising short-term interest rates, corporate bond yields, housing starts, share prices and Confederation of British Industry surveys of business optimism) has now been rising for some 15 months. In the past, this index has on average preceded an upturn in economic activity by about 15 months. This suggests that an upturn should occur about now.

However, the index has on occasion started to rise as much as 21 months before the economy has begun to recover. If this were to happen again, the recovery would not come before the late summer.

At the same time the index of "coincident indicators" (income, expenditure, output, retail sales, capacity use and changes in stocks of materials) is actually suggesting that the bottom of the recession was reached towards the end of last year. But it is clear that this index has been distorted by the unusually high level of retail business caused by the prolonged new year "sales" in the high street.

Moreover, two of the component indicators in this group have not been included for several months and their inclusion could lead to substantial revisions to the coincident index.

It all seems a flimsy basis on which to make firm predictions, and, of course, the use of these indicators takes account of the Budget measures. These, in spite of protestations to the contrary by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, must have a countervailing effect on the economy.

It remains the view of Mr

Lawson and his Treasury colleagues, that the recovery will be seen in the second half of this year. Precisely how this will come about, when living standards and company investment will be falling and exports are desperately uncompetitive, remains unclear.

In a speech this week Mr Lawson suggested that the recovery could come from a slowdown in the rate of de-stocking by companies, a fall in the level of savings as inflation drops and an upturn in the world economy.

It does seem quite possible that there will be a slowdown in the rate of de-stocking, which during 1980 was unprecedented. But if the recovery rests on this alone, it could easily prove a false dawn.

Also whether individuals will be prepared to dig into their savings to support their living standards can only be a matter of guesswork. We have no past experience of the way people behave when there are three million jobless.

Certainly, we cannot expect a recovery in world trade to rescue us, unless it is strong and sustained. British goods are now very uncompetitive in overseas markets and all the evidence suggests that in such circumstances our share of world trade in manufactures will fall in volume and that this could continue for several years.

We could, therefore, yet see a situation in which one of the few elements of demand in the economy to show an increase will be public expenditure—prosperity that cannot be very appealing to the Government.

The reason why Mr Lawson believes that a boost to the economy may come from somewhere is that the "real money supply" will be growing. That is to say, the rate of inflation will drop below the Government's target growth for the money supply. Or, to put it in a different way, the money supply will grow faster than is necessary to accommodate the rise in prices, leaving room for some real growth in output during 1981-82.

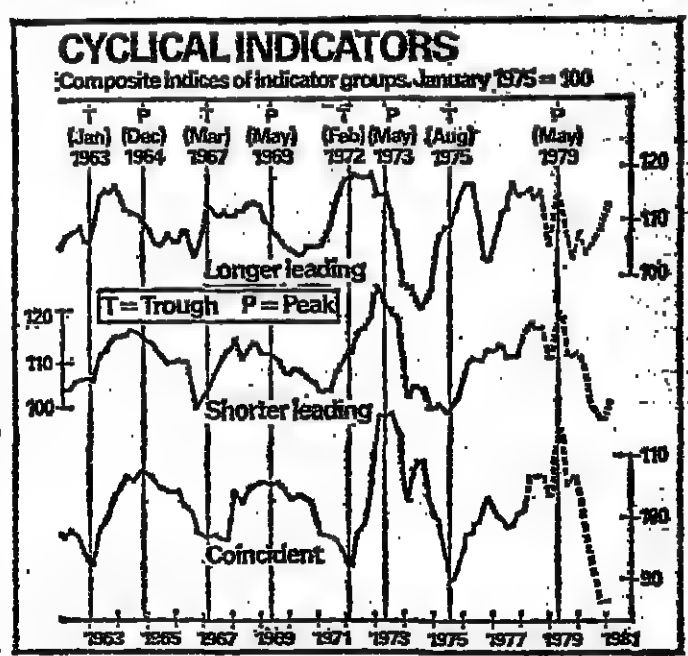
The Government has a 6 per cent to 10 per cent target for money growth in the coming financial year, and the velocity of money is also tending to rise by about 1 per cent or 2 per cent a year on average. Against this, inflation is forecast to be down to 8 per cent by the second quarter of 1982. According to this line of argument, there will thus be room for perhaps 2 per cent real growth in output.

Such calculations represent monetarist "fine tuning" of a high order.

If inflation proves to be a couple of points higher than forecast, the percentage growth will presumably disappear. On the other hand, if the monetary target were raised by, say, 4 percentage points, we could perhaps ensure real growth of 6 per cent.

Is there any limit to this wonderful process? Perhaps the Government has at last found the formula for growth in our time.

Melvyn Westlake



Lord Carr, chairman of Prudential Corporation.

the best of times, experienced a sharp downturn with underwriting losses rising from £4.1m to £12.4m in the face of overcapacity and rate-cutting in international reinsurance.

The fact that the Prudential—with investment income up by only £1m to £33.9m—was unable to offset underwriting losses meant that it had to rely on a tax credit of £2.8m to produce a profit at all from its general insurance side.

A case that a number of exceptional factors (notably harmonization of M and G accounting procedures which had the effect of knocking off £800,000 from investment income) and some perhaps unexpected points (translation of overseas income into sterling and the effect on cash flow for investment of underwriting losses) is the most optimistic route shareholders can take at this stage.

The doubt, naturally, is not whether the Prudential is anything other than sound (a five point improvement to 60 per cent in the solvency margin demonstrates that) but whether ideas of it being a growth stock within the sector should be temporarily shelved.

At 243p now, down 16p yesterday, the shares are yielding 6.5 per cent and giving away no premium against the life sector. The Prudential must show that it can restore the balance of its general business.

Indexed stock

Time to make a decision

Pension fund managers who have not already done so will have to make up their minds today at what level to pitch tenders for the index-linked Treasury stock that goes on offer tomorrow. Actuarial advice that has been flying around over the past few days suggests that bids ought to be pitched between 78 and 88, to produce a real rate of return of 3-4 per cent. However, to find an actuary who believes that this is what will happen in practice is an entirely different matter.

So what are the arguments to justify bids at par or substantially above? The first, and in my opinion a foolish one, is that of "scarcity value". All the signs are that this will not prove a unique stock.

The more fundamental argument for bidding up the price is that a portfolio can stand an element of potentially sub-standard return in exchange for the "certainty" of (real) return offered by the new stock. This is a reasonable argument, though whether the low risk premium should push the

Business Diary: I thee wed (subject to contract)

Now thrive not only the mug makers but lordly auctioneers and leftie badge mongers. . . . The approaching nuptials of Prince Charles are being celebrated by Central Books, a London bookshop carrying a wide selection of books by V. I. Lenin, with a badge (below) in royal purple, admonishing "Don't do it, Di!"

This will cost Carliphobes 15p a time. For about £4,999.85 more, you may also be able to secure from Sotheby's on

Monday fortnight what the auctioneers say is the earliest known marriage contract between a Prince of Wales and his lady.

The contract, which could be subtitled "Do do it, Phil!", is from 1326 and is between Prince Edward, later King Edward III, and Philippa, daughter of Count William of Hainault.

Under its terms Edward promised to secure papal dispensa-

tion for the marriage (they were cousins), marry Philippa within two years or cough up £10,000.

The money stayed in the family, for Edward and Philippa were married in time—when he was 16 and she 14. She proved to be a devoted wife, he a wandering husband.

We owe the survival of the contract to a Philippa—not a member of Prince Charles's brother-in-law's family, but to the nineteenth century collector Sir Thomas Phillipps.

The Sotheby's sale, which is likely to be handled by Lord John Kerr, head of the books department, is of manuscripts now owned by the family trust of the book dealers Philip and Lionel Robinson.

Lord John told me yesterday that the contract is in the catalogue as expected to fetch between £3,000 and £5,000. "The catalogue was printed before the marriage was announced," he said. Prices as a rule aren't affected by extraneous things which happen at the same time.

It does not look as if 655 years from now Sotheby's will be knocking down a similar moment of the present Prince's union. Asked whether Lady Diana's family wanted a contract, a spokesman for Prince Charles said yesterday: "No, apparently not. Nothing like that at all."

Now busy trying to fend off Thos W. Ward, and at Rockaway Group, the glass people, Peacher, British Transport Docks and Sea Alliance.

At Telephone Rentals Sir Charles will concentrate on the group's relations with the world outside the company. The engineering side will be left to a Telephone Rentals veteran, Bob Sly, who becomes chief executive.

Best wishes to oilman Algy Cliff on his acquisition of The Spectator—but also a niggle. The current issue of the venerable organ carries an article by Edward Norman, ecclesiastical historian and Dean of Peterhouse, Cambridge.

This is a witty review of a book on the modern papacy by my colleague, Peter Nichols, which under the title "Misunderstanding Rome" says of our Rome correspondent: "His judgment, in fact, rests upon some sadly familiar propaganda depictions."

Dr Norman's opening sentence, however, reads: "This book is the result of The Times strike," in that Nichols had a year's leisure in which to research his work.

But, Dr Norman, the year in question saw not a strike but a lock-out. No "propaganda depiction" is sadder or more familiar to journalists of The Times than this and, while I am reminding you of the strike, I am reminded by the all-informed, is grates when repeated by an academic in the course of marking down a colleague.

The Dean of Peterhouse may be excused such a lapse. His recreation, after all, is "watching television"—not perhaps the best window in the world; and there again, as a divine, it may be that his eyes are

Economic notebook

A cautionary tale

Industrial action and politics where is the dividing line?

The controversy involving members of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo) over the "blacklisting" of work related to council house sales highlights some of the most crucial issues which confront the Government in its review of trade union law reform. In particular, this action reveals the inadequacy of the present law to curtail industrial action taken to promote political purposes and it also raises apprehensions about the operation of the closed shop in the public sector.

Events in the London boroughs of Camden and Lambeth illustrate the position. The councils are Labour-controlled and, generally opposed to the Conservative policy of selling council homes. Their opposition is shared by Nalgo, which represents white collar employees responsible for handling applications for purchase by council tenants. The union members concerned have been authorized (but not instructed) to black the relevant work and this action has been approved by the union's Emergency Committee at national level.

Officially, the reason given by the union branches for the blacking is the refusal by the management of its demand for extra staff to be taken on to handle the council house sales. It is difficult to believe, however, that the action is motivated to some extent by political considerations; yet, by adopting or annexing the vocabulary of a staffing dispute, the union thereby clears itself with the immunity from legal action available to individuals who act "in contemplation of furtherance of a trade dispute".

The meaning of this much-quoted formula has been the subject of a series of celebrated cases in the last two years. One of these arose out of the blacking of a ship called the *Nawala*, where the lawfulness of political strikes was directly in issue. The House of Lords eventually decided that, provided a dispute was to some extent connected with legitimate employment matters, then it was immaterial that it was also partly or even predominantly motivated by political or extraneous purposes.

This decision overturned an early decision of Lord Denning in the Court of Appeal that in

industrial action taken for a predominantly political purpose was not in furtherance of a trade dispute and therefore did not attract the statutory immunity.

Although the present law still gives no protection to strikes taken for a purely political purpose, it is very easy for a union (whether acting in good faith or not) to dress up a political dispute in the guise of a trade dispute. The result is that in practice a union which goes about its business in the right way has virtually a free hand in promoting industrial action for a political purpose, the only exception being if the attendant trade dispute is an obvious sham.

In practice, a union has virtually a free hand in promoting industrial action for a political purpose.

pute and decide which of them was predominant. This difficulty notwithstanding, there is much support for a change in the law restricting protection only to those disputes connected "wholly or mainly" with employment matters.

A second cause for concern is the ability of a union branch to promote political blackings or strikes by means of the closed shop, such as exists in Camden but not in Lambeth. A particular feature of closed shops in the public sector is that, in the past, they have usually been introduced by means of a formally negotiated agreement between the unions and the employing authority. This may happen over the heads and against the wishes of some of the employees concerned. It is significant that almost all the well-known cases in which people have lost their jobs as a result of closed shop agreements have been in the public sector.

The danger of closed shops in the public sector is that they allow for an uneasy alliance

between politically elected employers and union branches which are becoming increasingly politicized. Traditionally, the maintenance of an independent balance was regarded as an essential component of the system of checks and balances which underpins our constitutional freedom. Last year's Employment Act notwithstanding, the closed shop largely allows the union to override the conscientious objection of individuals to taking part in politically motivated industrial action.

If the tradition of an independent bureaucracy is to be maintained, there is a strong case for making the closed shop altogether unlawful where the employer is a politically elected body.

A third and final aspect of the matter relates to the shortcomings of the special provisions in last year's Employment Act putting a limit on the immunity for industrial action. These measures are confined to the disruption of commercial contracts existing between businesses and therefore have little effect on public bodies such as local authorities, which are not primarily trading concerns. Their relationship with the public does not depend upon business contracts but upon a series of statutory duties imposed by Parliament.

Thanks to yet other decisions of Lord Denning in the Court of Appeal, there appears to be no support for a change in all for individuals who use unlawful means to procure a breach of statutory duty. By contrast, there is still a very wide immunity for causing breaches of contracts in furtherance of trade disputes.

This incipient distinction between the public and private sectors in defining the limits of lawful industrial action is a lawful matter well be a signpost for the future.

Be that as it may, the present Court of Appeal decision would have the effect of making almost any form of industrial action in the public sector unlawful, which is a wholly unrealistic position for the courts to maintain. For this reason alone, the Government may be obliged to review the position in its current round of talks on the Green Paper on trade union immunities and to clarify the position by statute.

Brian Capstick

Spotted dog specialist wanted

Ivor Davis

skilled, the trained and talented," he says.

Mr Fraade recently opened a London office, run by his brother Robert to cope with the increase in traffic.

He says there is a new rush of middle class, skilled workers from Britain to fill a variety of jobs in banks, insurance, defence, computer companies, hospitals and aerospace factories in America.

Recently the Northrop Corporation, one of the largest aerospace companies in California, found itself picketed by American engineers who claimed that they were losing jobs because the company was hiring scores of skilled British engineers at lower salaries.

The English engineers got their permit through lawyers like Mr Fraade, who sets out to help them step by step through the complicated entry process.

It's a kind of *bracero* programme for Britons, he says. "In bygone years, it was unskilled Mexican workers who were shipped into California by the hundreds on temporary work permits to pick lettuce and grapes. Now they're British engineers coming on the same kind of temporary visas to take the well-paid, skilled jobs."

Mr Al Strong, president

of the Los Angeles headhunting firm Commercial Programming Services, makes frequent trips to London to recruit skilled workers. Recently, he said one California insurance company needed half a dozen data processors. "They couldn't find them in the United States so they sent me to England. I saw 40 candidates and hired six of them."

"After a year they are supposed to go home but in many cases they want to stay and that is where we call in an immigration lawyer to get them their green cards."

Companies like Cybernet Corporation of Culver City hire data processors at salaries ranging from \$25,000 to \$35,000 (£10,870 to £15,200) a year.

"California is very attractive to these people," Mr Strong says.

Mr Fraade says that there is still a big demand for skilled British workers in "silicon Valley" (the heart of California's electronic industry) and with unemployment running so high in Britain, there is a large pool of assemblers, tool and die makers, welders, carpenters and pipe fitters to draw on.

As a result, the practice of immigration law and associated fields like tax and investment guidance has become one of the fastest growing specialties in the country.

Planet

Percy Lane Group

Manufacturers of factory glazed aluminium windows for railway coaches, motor vehicles, the building industry and for caravans.

Preliminary results for 1980

	Historic Cost	Current Cost
1980	1979	1980
Turnover	£900	£900
Profit before tax	19,606	17,431
Earnings per share (net)	685	161
Dividend cover	11.0p	3.8p
	3.7	1.0

- Final dividend of 2p per share (1979-1p) making 3p for 1979-1.75p
- Proposed capitalisation issue of 1 for 5
- 1981 - The Group has made a good start

Copies of the 1980 Report and Accounts will be available from the Secretary, Percy Lane Group Ltd, 83 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2AP after 16 April 1981.

Ross Davies

Wallchart

THIS IS THE TIME WHEN I ALWAYS REFLECT...

THAT EVERY PLANE THAT CRASHES...

HAS A CERTIFICATE OF AIRWORTHINESS ON TAKE-OFF...

مكتبة النور

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Insurances tumble after Prudential results

After Tuesday evening's strong advance the pace slowed in equities yesterday as light profit taking developed.

Prices in most major sectors recorded falls and jobbers were busy mopping up stock which had been in short supply. Once again early morning trading was led by the overnight setback on Wall St where the Dow Jones slipped below the 1,000 level. Worries persisted over the deteriorating situation in Poland.

As a result the FT Index closed 4.3 lower at 507.4 having been 4.5 off at 3 pm. Shortages of stock again provided building shares with further impetus while the higher bullion price saw further activity in gold shares. But oils came in for a shake out following overnight selling of oil shares on Wall St.

The long list of trading statements kept dealers busy, especially in the insurance market where several disappointing results sent prices tumbling. With conditions tight in the money market yesterday jobbers reported further persistent selling of Government securities. Institutions were still ready to take profits in order to raise cash for application of the new index-linked stock which starts today.

Prices in longs closed with falls of between £1 to £1.10, while at the shorter end the falls were kept to within £1.16 to £1.10. Dunlop up 2p at 80p was the main feature in leading industries, following an exchange of 21.2m shares between Pirelli International and Goodfellow Plaza at around 80p. But dealers did not think a full-scale bid would take place.

Elsewhere, falls predominated, with ICI 2p lower at 236p. Bechtams 3p at 174p, Glaxo 4p to 294p, Unilever 7p to 495p, Fisons 3p to 155p, Bowater 6p to 223p and BOC International and GKN both 1p lower at 121p and 146p respectively. Only Lucas Industries, reporting later today, bucked the trend by advancing 6p to 174p.

The profits shortfall at Prudential Corp saw jobbers mark

the price sharply lower at 242p, after 239p, a net fall on the day of 17p. The full-year figures from Eagle Star were less than impressive and the shares fell 16p to 242p with Legal & General, reporting next week, 7p lower at 245p. The falls might have been heavier but for the increased dividend.

In the meantime, the rest of the sector dipped in sympathy with falls in G&L 4p to 344p, Royal 5p to 378p and General Accident 6p to 332p.

In banks the major clearers seemed unconcerned by the escalating strike by clerical staff with Barclays adding 2p to 380p, Midland 8p to 318p, Lloyds 3p to 323p and National Westminster unchanged at 348p. Talk of better terms from Standard & Chartered, up 3p at 657p, saw Royal Bank of Scotland jump 10p to 140p. In merchant banks Berkeley Hambro advanced 8p to 250p along with Kleinwort Benson 8p to 272p both ahead of figures to date.

An £8m cash call to shareholders clipped 1p from County & New Town Properties at 64p while full-year figures

had Slough Estates 1p lower at 151p. Falls of 1p and 2p were also seen in MEPC at 241p, Land Securities at 417p, Gt Portland at 252p and Haslemere Estates at 412p.

Better than expected trading statements gave a fillip to Arthur Bell, 6p to 176p, Sirdar, 4p to 163p, Church & Co 7p to 165p, Percy Lane 9p to 39p, Metal Closures 12p to 111p and Rockware 5p to 65p.

Persistent buyers of Rothmans International have sent the shares to a new high of 55p, on any combination of three rumours: a property revolution, a deal with BAT, or one with Grand Metropolitan over Liggett's tobacco interests. Rothmans says: "We don't know why the shares are going up". For a market normally between 50,000 and 100,000 shares, buying orders have gone in at an average of 100,000 and higher. The shares closed last night at 54p.

But disappointing news hit Armstrong Equipment 2p to 42p, Bestobell 2p to 372p and

Garton Engineering 4p to a new low of 40p. Still benefiting from recent trading statements, Highgate & Optical expanded 4p to 23p but Ricardo Engineering Consultants continued to fall 63p to 490p. Profit taking wiped 5p from Stoddart & Pitt at 101p, 13p from United Newspapers at 190p and 8p from Watnoughs at 112p.

Textiles had a firm session buoyed on by improved performance from A. Beckman up 3p at 67p, British Mahir up 5p at 40p and Wilkinson Warburton up 10p at 72p.

The Monopolies Commission's go-ahead for a full bid for British Sugar was greeted enthusiastically with British Sugar rising 21p to 286p while S & W Berisford closed 4p easier at 112p. Trusthouse Forte drifted 1p to 213p but Savoy "A" still awaiting further developments was wanted 5p higher at 178p. F. Pratt climbed 4p to 109p on news that the 600 Group, up 1p at 78p, had increased its stake to 27 per cent. Wolverhampton Steam Laundry ended 6p dearer at 38p on recent news that Concorde had taken a 20 per cent stake.

Shortages of stock again benefited builders with Blue Circle 4p dearer at 408p, Redland 4p to 180p, London Brick 1p to 79p, and BPE 1p to 278p. Newarthill rose 5p to 455p after news of a £2m disposal and profit taking clipped 5p from Barrat Developments at 238p and Wilson Connolly 7p to 231p.

Electricals were easier with more stock coming on offer. GEC slipped 2p to 668p, Racal 2p to 367p, Plessey 5p to 311p and Standard Telephone & Cables 3p to 494p. Among second liners, Farnell eased 5p to 392p but Normand Electrical edged ahead 2p to 26p.

Stores closed mixed although gains were seen in Debenhams 1p to 88p, J. Hephworth 1p to 114p, Boots 3p to 240p and British Home Stores 1p to 158p. Oil shares saw heavy selling following the weakness of oil shares in New York overnight. BP fell 10p to 374p, Shell 8p to 384p, Ultramar 7p to 483p, Tritel 6p to 290p and Buzmah 6p to 165p. Lasso, which reported earlier in the week, was also badly hit, dropping 2p to 392p.

A disappointing drilling report cut 5p from Premier Consolidated at 100p as London United Investments, also with a sizable stake in the project tumbled 18p to 185p.

Berkley Exploration closed 5p cheaper at 282p and KCA International 3p at 188p. Equity turnover for March 24 was £167.849m (bargains 27,902). Active stocks according to the Exchange Telegraph were Lasso, GEC, Shell, Ultramar, GKN, Cons Gold Field and ICI Gas.

Traditional options: Dealers reported quieter conditions yesterday. Calls were made in Dunlop, Keith Collins Pies, French Kier, William Press at 31p, Burmah at 15p and British Car Auction at 7p. A put was arranged in Boots at 13p.

Traded options: A total of 1,632 contracts were recorded. Racal attracted 190, Shell 10, M & S 93, Land Securities 87 and Lonrho 114.

Arthur Bell tops forecasts with interim rise to £9.7m



Mr. Raymond Miquel, chairman of Arthur Bell and Sons.

By Rosemary Unsworth
Arthur Bell and Sons, the Perthshire distiller, exceeded market expectations with its interim results, pushing the shares up by 6p to 176p. Pretax profits for the six months to December 31 were £9.7m, a 6.4 per cent improvement on last year's £9.2m. Turnover on last year's £112.8m to over rose from £112.8m to £127.5m. Although volume was £127.5m, overall 1980 production in 1979, however, by the sales increases in April.

"Industry sales volume showed a 5 per cent decrease over 1979. Unfortunately this did not deter the Chancellor of the Exchequer from applying a further duty increase this month," Mr. Raymond Miquel, the chairman, said. Export sales were £1.5m ahead of last year at £12.9m while the Scotch whisky division as a whole improved sales from £101.5m to £127.5m, and produced profits of £10.3m against £8.3m.

The glass container operation, which cost £380,000 in

sion was expected to be back into profit by the year end because of the increase demand in the summer for soft drinks.

Townmaster Transport improved its contribution from £11,000 to £70,000 but the result was coupled with a warning that full-year profits would be modest unless there is a improvement in the haulage industry rates as operating costs are rising sharply.

Interest charges rose from £16m to £27m but the benefit of last year's rights issue, which was 75 per cent taken up by the underwriters, should help to reduce borrowings by the year end.

The interim dividend has been increased from 3.0p to 3.3p gross and Bell is making a one-for-two scribble.

"Indications are that group pretax profit for the second half should exceed last year's £7.65m," Miquel said, but added that home demand had fallen considerably since the Budget

Profits dip to £5.5m at Metal Closures

By Our Financial Staff

Record overseas earnings at Metal Closures, the packaging manufacturers, prevented a sharp fall in profits last year. Even so pretax profits slipped by 5 per cent from £5.8m to £5.5m in the 12 months to December 31, while turnover rose slightly from £62.3m to £65.6m.

The 77 per cent-owned South African subsidiary was the main contributor to the overseas performance, producing a 56 per cent improvement at the half-way stage to £900,000. But United Kingdom profits were severely depressed by the drastic reduction in consumer demand which accelerated as the year went on.

Mr. John Boden, the chairman, said: "As yet, there are no signs of any improvement in the order book continues low and erratic, and with the Budget having imposed additional restrictions on consumer spending, United Kingdom profits will be under still further pressure."

The group made 400 of its 3,000 workforce redundant during the year and the poor summer was another blow for the drink manufacturing side. The final dividend has been maintained at 4.5p gross, which with the interim gives the same total as last year at 7.7p.

Underwriting losses soar at Eagle Star

By Richard Allen
Insurance Correspondent

A sharp increase in industrial injury claims has produced spiralling underwriting losses at Eagle Star, Britain's biggest insurer of employers' liability.

The group's total loss on general insurance leapt from £18.8m to £54.3m last year and even this figure was struck after the group had drawn £10m from its catastrophe reserve.

Despite the underwriting setback, Eagle Star managed a slight increase in pretax profits from £64.3m to £65.9m, thanks largely to a rise of almost a quarter to £74m in investment income. The group is paying a final dividend of 7.86p gross, taking the total for the year up by almost 17 per cent to 15p gross.

The outcome disappointed the market, which had already been

shaken by poor results from Prudential Corporation, an Eagle's share price fell 16p to 242p.

A spokesman said last night that the huge underwriting loss had been struck after the group had increased its special reserve to cover industrial liability claims by £36m to £157m. He said that the liability account had suffered from intense competition resulting in premium growth and the effect on claims costs of the recession.

Lack of available jobs has meant that workers injured on one form of employment could not be offered lighter duties elsewhere with a consequent rise in claims for loss of earnings. Eagle Star is also being hit by increasing claims for industrial deafness, sometimes policies dating back more than 30 years.

Duport preparing circular

By Philip Robinson

A circular outlining the principal changes to troubled Midlands group Duport is likely to go out to shareholders early next week. The group is pulling out of steelmaking by closing its South Wales interests and selling associated steel operations to the British Steel Corporation for around £23m.

The circular, virtually a prospectus to have the shares requoted after they were suspended at 12p a month ago

valuing the company at £6 will show the structure Duport without steel. It will also detail the agreement—yet unsigned—with BSC, the trading statement and announce the future position of the company.

But it will contain no details of the rumoured capital restructuring of the group—let alone the proposed takeover by Sir John and Lady Grove, who own a 10 per cent stake in the group.

BP Oil profits in UK fall to £72m

By Our Financial Staff

Operating profits of the United Kingdom refining and marketing operation of BP Oil fell from £155m to £72m in 1980; and on a current cost basis show a £73m loss. The current cost loss in 1979 was £78m.

Sales and operating revenue in 1980 totalled £3,396m against £2,707m. In the last quarter of 1980, the United Kingdom operations were making a historic, as well as a current, cost loss, and the 1981 outlook is "gloomy", thanks to lower industrial demand, surplus refining capacity and intensified competition.

Redundancy and interest costs hit Rockware

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Redundancy costs and soaring interest charges wiped out most of Rockware Group's profits in 1980, leaving only £472,000 pretax compared with a £5.2m profit in 1979.

After United Glass, which reported its turnaround to losses of £5.6m pretax last month, Rockware is the second largest glass container maker in the country with about 30 per cent of the market.

Demand for glass containers collapsed from last April onwards as customers destocked. Group turnover rose by 19 per cent to £169.8m but volume in the glass division fell about 9 per cent with supplies to the wines and spirits industry worst hit.

Mr. John Craigie, chairman, said that he thought the worst was over but he saw little sign of improved demand. However, he expected Rockware to benefit in 1981 from cost-savings and lower interest rates. He did not expect further massive redundancies.

Poor results and losses in the second half had been expected after the warning which accompanied a recovery in first-half profits from £1.2m to £3.5m pretax. But Rockware is paying a small final dividend and the shares rose 5p to 85p yesterday. The 3p gross dividend—the interim was passed—compares with 9.5p in 1979.

Redundancies of 1,500—about one fifth of its United Kingdom workforce—cost Rock-

ware £3m in exceptional items—£2 more than in the previous year.

The divisional breakdown of profits before interest but after redundancy costs showed the glass division down from £5.9m to £4.4m. This side bore most of the redundancies and the steeply rising costs were not covered by price rises. Rockware is now putting through an 8 per cent price rise.

The drop in plastics from £2.5m to £1.1m was mainly due to a £1m downturn at Alida—the flexible packaging company—and a small overseas loss. The plastic bottle companies held up relatively well in spite of lower demand. The small engineering division re-

covered from losses of £821,000 to an £89,000 profit, although the trend deteriorated in the second half.

Interest charges were nearly doubled from £2.7m to £5.3m, reflecting higher working capital needs during the year as stocks rose. Rockware reduced stock levels towards the end of the year but borrowings at the year end were still about £10m higher at £39m compared with shareholders' funds of £61m. Capital spending in 1980 was cut back to below the previous year's £20.4m.

After tax, dividends and other costs, Rockware made a net loss for 1980 of £531,000 compared with a £1.7m profit.

Briefly

Hampton Trust: Consents of operators, Hushes and Hughes of Texas, and of Minister of Mines for the State of Western Australia have not yet been obtained in connection with Hampton's purchase of the 3.5 per cent interest in West Australia oil and gas exploration permit EP 100. Compo Holdings: Pretax profit for half year to September 25, 1980 £12,000. EPS 3.5p (4.11p). Board expects a similar performance for second half year. Newfield and Burton Holdings: Mr. V. F. Burton, chairman, told annual meeting that although order books are lower than normal at two of group's four companies, and while margins remain very tight, all companies are currently operating profitably.

West Hampshire Water: Offer for sale by tender of £2m 8 per cent redeemable preference stock 1986. Minimum price of issue £102 per cent. Amount of stock applied for was £5.74m. Lowest price to obtain a partial allotment was £102.25.

Kean and Scott: Newcomer investments have an interest in 331,500 shares (8.77 per cent). Jamaica Sugar Estates: Offer by Mr. Nicholas de Savary for 1980 £14,666 (£15.52m). Pretax profit £1.3m (£2.02m). EPS 15.18p (25.1p). Dividend total 5.75p net (same).

Clifford's Dairies: Turnover for 1980 £49.5m (£41.62m). Pretax profit £2.12m (£2.27m). EPS 21.99p (£22.2p). Dividend 4.0p (3.0p) net. LCA pretax profit £1.71m (£1.86m).

Dares Estates has exchanged conditional contracts for acquisition by its subsidiary Dares Realty of whole of issued share capital of, and certain loan notes issued by North San Diego Land Inc., a California corporation, for 887,620 shares.

Negretti and Zambra: Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation yesterday acquired 40,000 ordinary shares in Negretti at 24p. CFC, an associate of Negretti, intends to assist these shares to the offer from Western Scientific Investments.

Wilkinson Warburton: Sales £24.5m for 1980 (£23.4m). Pretax profit £719,504 (£879,000). Dividend before tax 8.59p gross. EPS 44.05p (£17.7p). Fife Forge: Turnover for 1980 £8.27m (£6.91m). Pretax profit £302,500 (£269,000). EPS 16.41p (£12.79p). Dividend 5.71p gross (4.7p net). CCA pretax profit £357,000.

Cornhill Insurance Group 1980 Results

	1980 £000	1979 £000
Premium Income		
Fire and accident	126,237	110,234
Marine, aviation and transport	3,747	3,747
General business	129,984	113,981
Life	13,508	9,734
	143,492	123,715
Profits		
Underwriting results:		
Fire and accident	(4,452)	(5,501)
Marine, aviation and transport	(1,120)	(662)
	(5,572)	(6,163)
Investment income	14,914	12,437
Shareholders' life profits	100	75
Other income	195	163
Share of associated company result	(333)	—
Profit before taxation	9,304	6,512

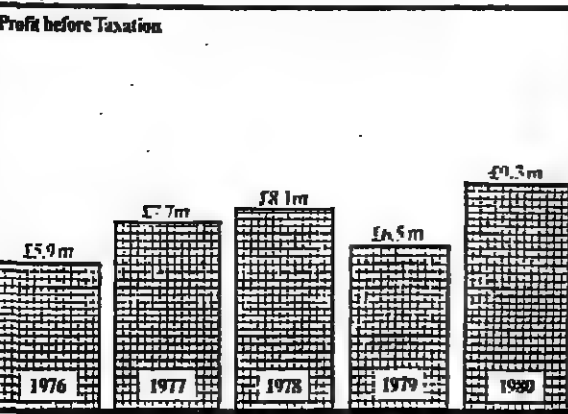
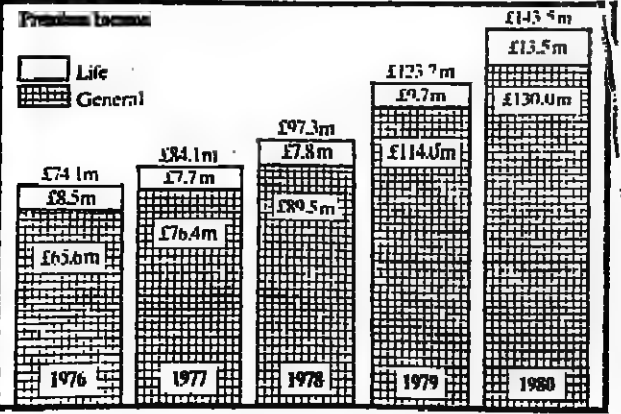
In a year of keen competition, and in the face of inflation and a deepening economic recession, Cornhill achieved a pre-tax profit of £9.3m. General business premiums increased by 14% to just under £19m. United Kingdom: This was a creditable recovery in 1980 from the weather affected result of 1979. The Motor account benefited from a lower claims frequency but inflationary pressures resulted in an underwriting loss for the year. Although the Household account improved, the overall underwriting loss continued to show a significant underwriting loss. Underwriting profits were achieved in the other classes of business.

Overseas: Poor results were experienced in Canada, New Zealand, and by the Group's associated company in Australia. The American subsidiary achieved a satisfactory profit.

Marine & Aviation: Severe casualties and overcapacity in the market resulted in the need for substantial transfers to support these accounts. Life: Further growth was achieved with new annual premiums exceeding £2.7m, an increase of 30% over 1979. Financial: The Group's solvency ratio at the year end on a market value basis was 54%.

Outlook: In the U.K., economic problems will continue to affect insurance production and increase competition. Overseas, there is little sign that the problems of 1980 are easing. Despite the challenges of 1981 the Group is hopeful it will continue its progress and that the welcome recovery evidenced in 1980 will be maintained.

Copies of the Report & Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary of 22 Cornhill, London, EC3V3JL.



Cornhill Insurance Group
A member of the Thomas-Tilling Group.

Prudential Corporation Limited

Unaudited Group Results for 1980

	1980 £m	1979 £m
Life:		
Premium income	1020.3	889.0
Surplus attributable to policyholders	372.8	303.7
Surplus attributable to shareholders	29.5	24.2
General:		
Premium income	456.0	416.7
Underwriting result	(33.9)	(15.2)
Investment income	33.6	32.6
	(0.3)	17.3
Taxation	(2.8)	5.7
Net Surplus	2.5	11.6
Profit and Loss		
Life	29.5	24.2
General	2.5	11.6
Account:		
Other net income	10.5	9.8
Profit for the year	42.5	45.6
Dividend cost	32.8	28.3
Retained profits	9.7	17.3
Earnings per share	14.2p	15.3p
Dividend per share	11.0p	9.5p

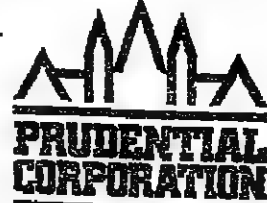
Life Business
The premium income and profits from Life business increased very satisfactorily in 1980. This is reflected in the increased levels of policyholders' bonuses which have been declared by Prudential Assurance.

	Premium income	Underwriting result
	1980 £m	1979 £m
UK	173.4	137.9
Canada	48.5	44.3
EEC	41.6	44.1
Other Countries	30.2	28.8
Marine & Aviation	8.9	7.7
Specialist Reinsurance (Mercantile & General)	153.4	153.9
	456.0	416.7
	(33.9)	(15.2)

There was a marked deterioration in underwriting results, particularly in respect of overseas direct and reinsurance business.

Solvency Margin
At the end of 1980 the total free assets of the Group represented 60% (1979 55%) of the short-term general insurance premiums.

Dividend
The Directors have declared a final dividend of 7.0p per share payable on 28 May next. This, together with the interim dividend of 4.0p per share paid in November, amounts to 11.0p per share.



Prudential Corporation Limited, 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Brit Mohair down 85 pc with tough year ahead

The recession slashed profits of British Mohair Spinners by 85 per cent from £1.5m to £228,000 in 1980, and after adjusting for inflation there was a loss of £510,000. However, after adding a tax credit and a release of deferred tax, the group had attributable profits of £3.7m against £1.1m.

Earnings a share were therefore up from 8.5p to 33p but the dividend was held at 5.38p gross.

Mr J. A. Clough, the chairman, says that 1981 looks like being another difficult year. On a brighter note he says that the parts of the group not involved in worsted spinning have traded well and show greater potential for expansion in the future.

No dividend from AC Cars

AC Cars, reporting a deficit for the second year running, is not paying an ordinary dividend for the 12 months to September 30, 1980, compared with 0.2p gross for the preceding year.

Turnover expanded from £3.5m to £4.12m, but the after-tax loss increased from £117,500 to £143,200. However, with a profit of £892,000 from extraordinary items—compared with a profit of £29,000 last year—AC has a net surplus of £764,000, against a loss of £100,000.

Profits tumble at R Cartwright

Last year, pre-tax profits of R. Cartwright (Holdings), makers of door and window furniture, etc., slumped to £185,000, compared with 1979's record figure of £1.13m. Turnover slipped from £5.8m to £5.2m. Under C.A.A. there is a pre-tax loss for 1980 of £206,000, compared with a 1979 profit of £79,000.

The total dividend is being cut from 6.6p to 4.28p gross.

C H Pearce agrees acquisition

C. H. Pearce and Sons has agreed in principle to acquire British Shipbuilders's wholly-owned subsidiary R. Harris and Sons (Builders) for £457,000 and the immediate repayment of a £750,000 loan made by British Shipbuilders to Harris. The net book value of the assets being acquired is £443,000.

Pre-tax profit of Harris for the year to March 31 was £363,000 and for the 11 months in February 28 the total is not expected to be less than £360,000.

Aberdeen Land down sharply in first half

Taxable profits of City of Aberdeen Land Association slumped from £756,000 to £322,000 in the half year to December 31. However for the full year profits are expected to reach £850,000 despite the absence of last year's exceptional property profits which help the total to reach £1.05m.

The interim dividend is raised from 4.54p gross to 6.07p.

Caparo offer for CMT unconditional

Caparo's offer for Central Manufacturing and Trading group has become unconditional. Its total stake is now some 30.06 per cent of the equity.

Acceptance of the offer were received in respect of 18,000 shares (0.07 per cent).

Before the offer, Caparo held 16.8m shares (21.48 per cent) and during offer period has acquired a further 7.53m (28.51 per cent).

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	12%
Barclays	12%
BCCI	12%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co.	12%
Lloyds Bank	12%
Midland Bank	12%
Nat Westminster	12%
TSB	12%
Williams and Glyn's	12%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 9% up to £50,000 9% over £50,000 10% over £100,000 11% over £250,000 12% over £500,000

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27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 5EB Telephone 01-621 1212
The Over-the-Counter Market

1980 21 High Low	Company	Price	Change	Divs	Yld	P/C
75 39	Airsprung Group	64	—	6.7	10.5	5.8
50 21	Armitage & Rhodes	50	—	1.4	2.8	2.6
192 921	Bardon Hill	189	—	9.7	5.1	7.1
98 88	Deborah Services	93	—	5.5	5.9	4.6
126 88	Frank Horsell	107	—	6.4	6.0	3.4
110 39	Frederick Parker	48	—	1.7	3.5	20.9
110 73	George Blair	73	—	3.1	4.2	—
124 59	Jackson Group	107	—	6.9	6.4	4.1
110 103	James Burrough	118	—	7.9	6.7	9.7
334 244	Robert Jenkins	325	—	31.3	9.6	—
55 50	Scruttons "A"	51	—	5.3	10.4	3.7
224 215	Torday Limited	215	—	15.1	7.0	3.7
23 9	Twinlock Ord	9	—	—	—	—
90 69	Twinlock 15% ULS	72	—	15.0	20.8	—
56 35	Unilock Holdings	46	—	3.0	6.5	7.1
103 81	Walter Alexander	100	—	5.7	5.7	5.5
263 181	W. S. Yeates	260	—	12.1	4.7	4.2

Change of strategy boosts Bestobell

By Margaretta Pagano

Bestobell's concentration over the last year on the fast growing aviation industries and on consolidating growth sectors at home and overseas has paid off.

A 20.3 per cent advance in pre-tax profits in the year to December 31 to £7.7m was made against £6.42m last time. Sales at the controls, energy engineering, aviation and consumer products group were 12.3 per cent up at £119.1m, against £106m.

The final dividend is lifted by 1.4 pence to 10.14p gross, making a total payment of 17.5p gross. This compares with 15.7p gross in 1979.

Trading continued the improvement seen in 1979 when profits rose by a third, and Bestobell defended its position against a bid from BTR, which now holds a 23.1 per cent stake.

It reflects the strategy over the last year of consolidation and shifting resources into potential growth areas while improving cash flow in others facing decline.

Mr Sandy Marshall, the chairman, said yesterday that despite the difficult economic climate the group had improved trading overall and seen a marked strengthening of the balance sheet. Gearing is down to 36 per cent from 46 per cent in 1979. The sale of Bestobell's former headquarters, Stoke House, released £1.5m which has gone to reduce borrowings.

Overall growth had been modest, Mr Marshall said, with trading and profit margins in the United Kingdom improving in the second half with the fall in inflation. Trading profit was up 22 per cent over the two overseas companies, in

southern Africa and Australia, showed significant growth. A split of the profits contribution from United Kingdom and overseas activities is not yet available but is estimated at about 50-50. The total value of export sales was £12.5m, 25 per cent of United Kingdom sales, and a 35 per cent increase over 1979.

Dr D. Denny, head of Bestobell Aviations Products, said profits from overseas and home aviation components had grown by 27 per cent over 1979. Orders have been received for the next two years and above-average growth is expected again this year. Last year the division added the Avica group to its fold.

Some 50 per cent of aviation products are exported from Britain.



Mr Sandy Marshall, chairman of Bestobell.

Eastern Produce acquisition

Eastern Produce (Holdings), the tea plantation-to-insurance broking group, has bought a £1m 29.9 per cent stake in Unochrome Industries, the metal finishing and heat treatment group.

Eastern paid 21p a share to Concellia Investments.

International

Deutsche Babcock tumbles

Deutsche Babcock, the West German metal products and industrial equipment group, said yesterday that net group profits fell to DM24.1m (£3.2m) in the year to last September 30 from DM40.9m the year before. Turnover rose to DM4,980m from DM4,420m.

Looking to this year, the group said it feared an increase in the political and economic risks of foreign business, which accounted for 54 per cent of incoming orders last year.

Cuts in West German state spending could also affect results, particularly in the power station sector where the outlook was uncertain because of delays in authorizing projects, the group said.

It plans to concentrate on developing energy-saving processes, coal-fired power stations and coal gasification projects.

Hiram Walker note

Hiram Walker Holdings is floating a £25m five-year note issue bearing 14 per cent annually through a Eurobond syndicate led by S. Warburg. The note will be issued in April 1981, will be guaranteed by Walker Home Oil, a Canadian-based holding company that accounts for the energy and whisky operations of Hiram Walker.

Final terms, including the issue price, will be fixed March 31. The notes are not callable and will not be amortized.

P and O Australia issue

P and O Australia, 75 per cent owned by Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation of the United Kingdom, said it will make a one-for-three share issue to raise \$19.9m (£8.32m). The \$8.33m new one-dollar shares will be issued on the basis of \$1.40 each and will rank for dividends paid from earnings in the current half year to June 30.

Northern Mining's hidden appeal

While attention has been focused on the multi-billion dollar bids galvanizing Wall Street, Australia has been host to some manoeuvring of its own. A great deal of interest surrounds a small company called Northern Mining, and, as is characteristic of the Australian mining scene, the picture is highly complex.

Northern Mining is a typical exploration company, living on hope as much as earnings. It has made a loss in most of the years since its foundation in 1963, although modest profits have been earned recently.

Northern has never paid a dividend, and has raised capital by share placements, later rewarding shareholders with another higher-priced issue.

Yet in recent weeks the share price has moved up strongly on persistent rumours of a takeover. Yesterday the shares were fetching about \$A2.80, which capitalized the company at \$A48m (£24m).

The rumours were proved largely correct. Endeavour Resources, another exploration company, in which the powerful and fast growing Bond Corporation, headed by the Western Australian entrepreneur Mr Alan Bond, holds 40 per cent, took a 10 per cent place in Northern shares and then raised its stake to just under 20 per cent. The operation cost \$A8.97m.

So what is Northern's attraction? It is simply a modest 5 per cent stake in the Ashton Joint Venture, the developer of the Argus diamond deposit in Western Australia. The dominant partner in Ashton is

Kingdom on completion of its tour of duty.

Mr Alan Woltz has been appointed managing director of LRC International. He has been president of LRC's North American division and the group's chief operating officer since November 1979.

Mr John Forsyth, the managing director of LRC's European Division, who joined the group in 1967, becomes deputy managing director of LRC International.

Mr G. A. Hazard is to join the board of Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation. He is resigning from the board to take up an appointment abroad.

Mr David H. I. Jenkins has been appointed sales director of Kwik-Fit.

Mr John Goldman has become an associate director of Greig Fester.

Mr D. John Ogren has become director and general manager, southern operations, for Conoco UK. He replaces Mr Phil Zayant, who has been promoted and transferred to Houston, Texas.

Church pays more despite 37 pc fall in profits

By Our Financial Staff

Northampton-based shoe manufacturer and retailer Church & Company made £1.95m pre-tax last year, 37 per cent less than in 1979. High interest rates and "indifference" trading conditions are blamed.

The final dividend has been raised 10 per cent, however, leaving the total payout 6.66 per cent higher at 11.4p gross for the year to December 31. The shares rose 7p to 165p yesterday.

The group's trading profits fell 32 per cent to £2.73m, and interest costs rose 44.3 per cent to £76,000. The group's wholly owned subsidiary, A. Jones & Son, suffered a £492,000 decline to £1.13m in its profits before tax, but paid maintained dividends worth £236,000 to its parent company.

Church's current cost profit before tax of £1.07m is worked out using a trade index which the board, chaired by Mr Ian Church, considers shows a poor picture of Church. Current cost earnings per share of 12.9p leave the net dividend 1.6 times covered.

Armstrong Equipment slumps in first half

By Catherine Gunn

The steep fall in demand for automotive products, components for white goods and farmings slashed profits at Armstrong Equipment to just £741,000 before tax at its December 28 interim stage, against £4.4m a year earlier.

The interim dividend has been halved to 0.735p gross. The shares fell 2 1/2p to 42 1/2p yesterday.

Prospects are a little brighter in the second half even if demand does not recover, thanks to a stringent programme of de-stocking and redundancies embarked on earlier this year. Last year Armstrong made £8m pre-tax.

Mr Harry Hooper, the chairman, said yesterday that if demand recovered by 50 per cent, the slimmer group could be very profitable. But the outlook for the light engineering industry remained uncertain, he said. Turnover fell by 14.1 per cent to £49.9m in the first half.

Mr Hooper said that the bulk of a 34 per cent rise in interest costs to £2.26m in the first half, reflected higher interest rates, though earnings rose a little from the June year-end net figure of £20.5m. Stocks stood at £43.7m then, and Armstrong has since embarked on a stock-cutting programme to reduce inventory levels by £20m at the rate of £1m a month. It hopes to resume expansion programmes next year.

However, redundancies cost the group £2.42m by the interim stage with more to come this half. Most of those came from the British workforce, though the loss-making French operation was also trimmed back. Overseas operations produced £850,000 profit in total with most of them doing well. But group trading profits were halved, at £3m. Armstrong Fastenings produced £300,000 and Cornercraft performed "a bit worse, but still did quite well".

Though most of the group's operations have been hard hit by the recession, its small aerospace vehicle turnover rose to over £2m. This business will be developed over the next decade. But Mr Hooper's expansion plans just now centre on Spain where the group is doing well supplying the Ford Motor company, and in motorbikes at home, where three recent acquisitions have given Armstrong the expertise to produce and race a range of racing bikes, with an eye to making motorbikes for the ordinary road user within two years.



SUMMARY OF GROUP RESULTS FOR 1980

DIVIDENDS. The Directors are recommending to the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 8th May 1981 a final dividend of 5.5p per share payable on 15th July 1981 to shareholders on the register as at the close of business on 16th June 1981. With the interim dividend of 5.0p per share which was paid on 15th January 1981 the total dividend for the year will be 10.5p per share (1979: 9.0p). The total cost of these dividends will be £14.3m.

RESULTS. Investment income in the shareholders' fund increased by 24 per cent to £73.8m. Pre-tax profits of Grovewood Securities were £14.4m and with the share of associated companies' results brought the total income from investments to £88.1m (1979: £73.9m). Shareholders' long term profits were £11.8m after grossing up for income tax and corporation tax. General insurance underwriting made a loss of £32.5m (1979: £18.8m) after a transfer from catastrophe reserve of £10m. General business premium income increased by 11 per cent. Overall pre-tax profits were £65.9m against £64.5m in 1979.

	1980	1979
	£m	£m
PREMIUM INCOME		
Fire, accident and motor	422.4	376.7
Marine, aviation and transport	20.1	20.4
Long term—annual premiums	148.6	119.4
—single premiums	72.1	56.0
	664.2	572.5
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT		
	1980	1979
	£m	£m
Investment income*	73.8	58.7
Profits of Grovewood Securities	14.4	13.2
Share of associated companies' results	(0.1)	1.0
Shareholders' long term profits	11.8	10.5
Underwriting loss	(32.5)	(18.8)
Expenses not charged to other accounts	(1.5)	(1.3)
Surplus after transfer from catastrophe reserve	65.9	64.5
Taxation	25.6	25.5
Minority interests	3.2	3.1
Net surplus for year available for appropriation	37.1	35.7
Staff profit sharing scheme	1.4	1.1
Less taxation	0.7	0.6
Transfer to catastrophe reserve	36.4	35.2
Dividends	14.3	12.1
Balance added to retained profits and reserves	22.1	21.1

*After deducting £2.1m in respect of interest on loan notes (1979: nil).

GENERAL COMMENTS. 1980 has been a most difficult year for insurance and in nearly all general accounts, both in the UK and overseas, the unsatisfactory results can be accounted for by intense competition and inflation. Additionally international and overseas results have been affected by the strength of sterling. Furthermore, world-wide industrial recession has restricted the premium growth necessary to cover the ever increasing costs of running the business. Intense competition in the UK has particularly affected the liability account.

INVESTMENTS. Investment income increased by 24 per cent. This most satisfactory result was assisted by the high interest rates obtainable throughout the year. The free reserves of the group, including capital appreciation on investments other than those of the long-term insurance funds, amounted to 85 per cent of general insurance business premium income.

GENERAL INSURANCE. Our overall result is analysed by territory in the following table which includes an estimate of that part of investment income which arises on insurance funds—

	Premium income	Underwriting result	Investment income less expenses	1980 Total	1979 Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland*	349.4	(25.3)**	48.8	21.5	23.1
Australia	18.7	(3.0)	1.3	(0.9)	—
Belgium	24.1	(2.2)	3.2	1.0	0.6
South Africa	35.2	0.5	1.9	2.5	3.4
USA	5.8	(0.1)	0.5	0.4	0.6
Other territories	8.3	(1.7)	1.3	(0.4)	0.5
Additional provision for unexpired risks (overseas business)		(0.8)		(0.8)	(0.1)
	442.5	(32.5)	55.0	22.5	27.2
Attributable to shareholders' funds		(32.5)	31.6	31.6	26.6
			86.6	84.1	53.8

*Including reinsurance and world-wide marine and aviation.

**after transfer from catastrophe reserve.

UNITED KINGDOM. Premium income increased by 15 per cent to £297m (1979: £257m). 1980 was an exceptionally difficult year for all classes of business in the UK with an overall underwriting loss of £25.0m (1979: £16.1m). After taking investment income on the funds into account the overall profit was £13.0m (1979: £14.1m). The fire account after a number of profitable years made a small underwriting loss of £0.7m (1979: profit £2.5m). In the "all-in" account there was a much reduced underwriting loss of £4.2m (1979: £6.4m). Although the claims frequency improved in the motor account this was partially offset by the increase in the average claims cost. The underwriting loss on the account of £5.9m (1979: £10.1m) showed a considerable improvement. Premium growth in the liability account suffered particularly from extreme competition and the downturn in the economy. The low rate of growth combined with an unprecedented increase in the levels of claims cost produced a loss of £13.1m (1979: £2.8m). A number of influences are contributing to the sharp increase in claims costs. In 1980 these have had a serious effect not only on current experience but also on claims outstanding from earlier years with the result that provisions for these claims require strengthening. We have therefore thought it prudent in the circumstances to increase these provisions by transferring £10m from the catastrophe reserve.

MARINE AND AVIATION. The 1977 account, closed at the end of 1980, produced a surplus but in view of the trend in later years it has been retained in the fund. In addition it has been considered prudent to give the fund further support by a transfer of £0.5m from profit and loss account. At the end of the year the fund amounted to £31.6m. This is 157 per cent of premium income.

OVERSEAS. There was a reduction in the overall underwriting profit to £1.0m (1979: £4.1m). In Australia there was an increased loss. Underwriting results in Belgium showed a welcome improvement. South Africa again made a profit on underwriting although much less than in previous years. In the USA our relatively small but growing account produced a satisfactory result.

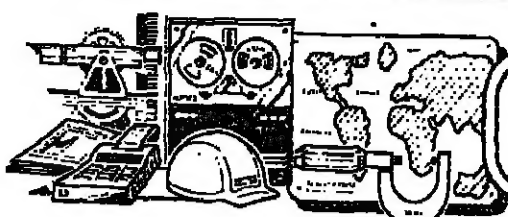
LIFE. World-wide new business produced new annual premiums of £38.8m (1979: £29.7m) and single premiums and considerations for annuities amounted to £72.1m (1979: £56.0m). The annual valuation of the UK life funds has again resulted in increased bonuses to policyholders. Profits transferred to the shareholders' account were £8.9m (1979: £6.0m) net of tax, with a grossed-up value of £11.7m (1979: £10.2m) and with transfers in respect of non-UK subsidiaries the total amount was £11.8m.

GROVWOOD SECURITIES LIMITED. Despite the severe trade recession Grovewood Securities achieved a record profit for the thirteenth consecutive year, pre-tax profit rising to £14.4m (1979: £13.2m).

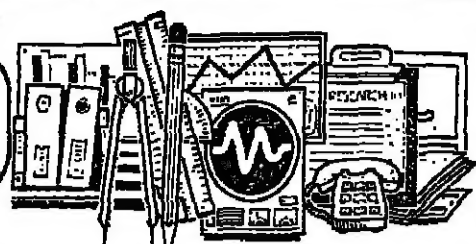
Copies of the Report and Accounts for 1980 and the Chairman's Statement will be sent to shareholders on 10th April 1981.

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SALARY (under review): starts at £5,320 and rises to £7,165. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For full details and an application form (to be returned by 24 April 1981) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote: 5465/81.

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A major publishing group is launching an important new premium-priced magazine in the autumn which will be concerned primarily with interior design and the fine arts. Applications are invited immediately for the following positions:

EDITOR

The group is looking for an editor with proven journalistic success and experience in interior design, fine arts or related fields.

The editor will be responsible for the evolution and development of an editorial package—content, format and presentation—which will make the magazine the most prestigious of its kind available.

It is, therefore, essential that the successful applicant should have administrative capabilities, as well as the ability to motivate and enthuse his/her staff.

A salary commensurate with the importance and seniority of this position will apply.

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

The successful applicant for this position will have full publishing responsibility for this new magazine. A proven record of success in the quality magazine or newspaper field is therefore essential.

The person chosen will be an accomplished administrator with a highly successful sales record at top client and agency level, specifically in the fields of quality consumer merchandise. And should have some experience of working with printers.

An interest and knowledge of interior design/fine arts would be an additional asset.

A basic salary of £15,000 will apply and an attractive incentive scheme should see the publisher's income level achieve £25,000 in year one.

Applicants for both positions should write, in strictest confidence, giving full details of career to date, to Macfarlanes, Ref. 24, Dowgate Hill House, Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2SY.

CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION

Applications are invited for an

ESTIMATES & BUDGET OFFICER

Several years' relevant experience essential. Professional qualifications and/or public service experience an advantage.

Salary scale: £8,348-£11,408 per annum.

Application forms and further details should be obtained from:

**The Canadian High Commission,
Personnel Division,
Macdonald House,
1 Grosvenor Square, LONDON W1X 0AB.**

Telephone: 01-829 9492, Ext. 687

quoting Ref: 81/12/IE. Completed application forms together with a covering letter including the names and addresses of two referees should be returned not later than Tuesday, April 21, 1981.

THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Applications are invited from persons capable of managing the Canadian Government Procurement Office located in London and engaged in contracting with European sources for £10 million worth of Government supplies and services annually.

Candidates should be experienced in contracting for a variety of products, administering contracts over £1 million and managing an office of three or four purchasing agents.

Salary scale: £8,348-£11,408 per annum.

Application forms and further details should be obtained from:

**The Canadian High Commission
Personnel Division,
Macdonald House,
1 Grosvenor Square,
London W1X 0AB.**

Telephone: 01-829 9492, Ext. 687

quoting Ref: 81/12/IE. Completed application forms together with a covering letter including the names and addresses of two referees should be returned not later than Monday, April 27, 1981.

CAREER RE-DIRECTION AND REDUNDANCY COUNSELLING

It might very well be in the best interests of many to re-appraise their careers before the now common phenomenon of redundancy suddenly renders the matter immediate and acute.

We have considerable experience of what might, for you, be a novel and perplexing problem and are equipped to offer well-informed and productive advice on the possible solutions to it.

To arrange a completely confidential discussion, please telephone or write to Malcolm Campbell.

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SCOTTISH HEALTH SERVICE COMMON SERVICES AGENCY SUPPLIES DIVISION

DIRECTOR

(Scale K, £15,767 to £18,919)

Due to the forthcoming retirement of the present holder, the Management Committee invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced persons for the post of Director of the Supplies Division of the Agency. The post is based in Edinburgh.

The successful applicant will be accountable to the Management Committee of the Agency for coordinating and directing the work of the Division, which will be concerned with the organization and management of the supplies function.

Applicants for the appointment should be suitably qualified and have had substantial experience at a senior level in management. Possession of an appropriate qualification such as the Institute of Purchasing and Supply Diploma will be an advantage.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service, Trinity Park House, South Trinity Road, Edinburgh EH6 2SE; telephone 031-552 6255, to whom completed applications should be submitted by April 17, 1981. Please quote reference number U341.

SOUTHERN SPAIN

Opportunity for progressive person to head team based in our Solagroup offices. We are the largest British owned licensed real estate agents and developers handling the area from Marbella to beyond Gibraltar and inland. Duties involve daily management of the Spanish company and co-ordination of the sales and promotion teams. Responsible directly to the resident English Chairman. Spanish or English speaking national, fluent in both languages, essential. Must be experienced in business management. Interviews in London between April 5th and 8th. Applications with full C.V. to:

**Fincasol Chullera Properties,
4 Bridge Street, Salisbury, SP1 2LX
Tel. 0722 26444**

FIELD SALES MANAGERS

Our nationwide expansion in the insurance industry is creating opportunities for Field Sales Managers (male or female). At present we have opportunities in Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ipswich, Lincoln, London, Portsmouth, Reading, Sheffield and other major cities.

If your present post just doesn't provide the right career and financial incentives, come and join us. Many of our Managers earned over £15,000 last year—and you could do the same if you are aged between 25 and 45 with previous experience in the insurance industry.

Why not ring me now to find out more?

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Pioneer House, 63a Thorpe Road, Norwich NR1 1UD,
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MARKETING CO-ORDINATOR

We at Herman Miller are leading designers and manufacturers for the office environment. Our marketing programme is expanding and we need a person to set up and run our information and library systems as well as to become thoroughly involved in promotional events.

We are looking for someone in their late 20s, preferably with a degree, who combines a strong administrative ability with the confidence to organize a team. A flair for developing systems to help us sell our products. You will be given a salary of £10,000-12,000 p.a. or 3 days weekly. Salary Ring Mrs. Kay Sykes on Recruitment Consultants

Please write with brief details of career to date to:

**Sue Brown, Marketing Programme Manager, Herman
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For further details please write to Mr Peter Gadalla, 135A, Fonthill Rd., London N4 3HH.
01-272 6151 or 01-272 7572.

THE NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION

The NFU seeks an Economist and an Agricultural Economist to join a small team in its Economics Division. Applications are invited from graduates with some practical experience of economic problems or students expecting to graduate in the current academic year. Both posts require good drafting skills and an ability to write effectively part in discussion. Salaries according to age and qualifications.

The Economist will help to forecast volume and value of output, expenditure and profitability of UK agriculture and to assess the position of agriculture within the national economy; have a grasp of both macro and micro economics and some familiarity with Quantitative Methods.

The Agricultural Economist will be responsible for enterprise costing and the assessment of other factors affecting individual commodity sectors.

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